

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Friday, February 21, 2014



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie addresses a large gathering Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, in Middletown, N.J., during a town hall meeting.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

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Bridgegate on Back-Burner at Christie Town Hall



**VIOLENCE HEATING
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Venezuela: Opposition denounces 'brutal repression'

**BEN FOX
JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— Venezuelan opposition leaders condemned the government Thursday for its heavy-handed attempt to subdue a protest

ment want, a civil war?" Capriles asked at a news conference.

David Smolansky, a mayor of a district in Caracas and member of the Popular Will party, said the jailing of its leader, Leopoldo Lopez, and aggressive manhunt

men on motorcycle.

The clashes with authorities as well as the pursuit of anti-government activists by troops and militias take place in darkness. During the day, the capital has largely operated as normal, with businesses and



A demonstrator waves a Venezuelan flag upside down near a barricade in La Boyera neighborhood in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014. Violence is heating up in Venezuela as an opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez faces criminal charges for organizing a rally that set off a deadly week of turmoil in anti-government protests in Caracas and other cities where demonstrators and government forces clashed, leaving several dead and scores of wounded.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

movement with nighttime sweeps that have turned many parts of the country into dangerous free-fire zones.

Police, National Guard troops and members of private militias have swarmed through streets in the capital and elsewhere firing volleys, at times indiscriminately, in repeated spasms of nighttime violence in recent days.

Henrique Capriles, the two-time presidential candidate of an opposition coalition, said the government has engaged in "brutal repression" as it goes after students and other protesters, in some cases breaking into apartment buildings to arrest those it accuses of taking part in a attempted coup.

"What does the govern-

ment want, a civil war?" Capriles asked at a news conference.

David Smolansky, a mayor of a district in Caracas and member of the Popular Will party, said the jailing of its leader, Leopoldo Lopez, and aggressive manhunt

men on motorcycle. The clashes with authorities as well as the pursuit of anti-government activists by troops and militias take place in darkness. During the day, the capital has largely operated as normal, with businesses and

schools open and people going about their business, while stocking up on groceries in case of unrest.

President Nicolas Maduro and his supporters say the escalating protests against his socialist government in the oil-rich but economically struggling country are part of an attempted coup sponsored by right-wing and "fascist" opponents in Venezuela and abroad, particularly the United States.

Maduro has vowed to crack down on the protests, particularly in Tachira, on the western border with Colombia, where the unrest has been particularly strong. The interior ministry said Thursday it would send a battalion of paratroopers there to the area restore order. □

Iran and world powers agree on a nuclear talk framework

**STEVEN ERLANGER
© 2014 New York Times**

VIENNA - In what officials described as a serious, workmanlike and conversational atmosphere, Iran and six world powers have agreed on a timetable and framework for negotiating a comprehensive agreement to end the confrontation over Iran's nuclear program, the European Union's foreign policy chief and Iran's foreign minister said Thursday.

While details were vague and the two delegation leaders declined to take any questions at a closing news conference, they said that groups of experts would meet early in March and the full delegations would meet here again on March 17, with the expectation that they will meet monthly.

Catherine Ashton, the EU official, said in brief remarks: "We had three very productive days during which we have identified all the issues we need to address to reach a comprehensive and final agreement. There is a lot to do, it won't be easy, but we have made a good start."

Officials refused to describe the topics for the expert meetings, but a senior U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity under the session's ground rules, said, "Every issue of concern to us is on the table," including uranium enrichment, Iran's heavy-water reactor project and its suspected nuclear military research and ballistic missile program. All these issues, the official said, including clarifying the issue of Iran's past military research, are at least mentioned in a joint plan of action agreed upon with Iran in November in Geneva.

"All our concerns must be met to get an agreement," said the U.S. official, defining Washington's goals as ensuring that Iran does not develop a nuclear weapon and that world powers can be confident that Iran's nuclear program has no military aspect or intent, as Iran maintains.

The care that officials on all sides took not to say anything very specific was striking, as was the positive atmosphere they described in the meetings, which were said by one official to have no element of political rhetoric or posturing, even over "areas of difficulty." It was clear that neither side wanted any note of failure in this first round of talks on a comprehensive deal, but it was also clear that most of the work here was about setting an agenda and establishing the priority of the issues at stake, without entering into a substantive discussion of those issues.

Iranian officials have said publicly that only their nuclear program is on the agenda, not their larger military structure, and that they will not dismantle any part of their nuclear program or give up what they have called their right to modernize it. U.S. officials have emphasized that large parts of Iran's nuclear infrastructure will have to be dismantled, as opposed to simply disabled, as part of a final deal.

A temporary six-month deal to essentially freeze Iran's program in return for modest relief from sanctions and the release of some frozen assets expires on July 20. The officials said they had planned meetings throughout the next four months, but wanted to leave the last month free, because negotiations tend to accelerate and intensify closer to deadlines.

Iran, for its part, wants the removal of crippling economic sanctions imposed upon it by the United Nations, the European Union and the United States. At the same time, it wants to preserve its dignity and what it calls its right to enrich uranium and to have a peaceful nuclear program like other signatories to the nonproliferation treaty. □

After short break, winter returns to central US

DON BABWIN

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — After a brief respite of sunshine, winter returned to much of the nation's midsection Thursday, bringing a chilly mix of rain, sleet and snow and even the risk of tornadoes. The weather accelerated long-awaited melting and added to considerable runoff, which raised concerns about flooding. Much of Illinois was under a flood watch.

To the north, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, forecasters predicted as much as 13 inches of fresh snow could fall through Friday. Minnesota expected to get 8 to 10 inches.

The governor of Wisconsin declared a state of emergency ahead of a storm expected to dump more than a foot of snow in places, and some schools closed early. On the East Coast, Vermont officials expressed the same worry



Pedestrians on Minneapolis' Nicollet Mall braved blowing and wet snow Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014 as a new winter storm hit eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

(AP Photo/Jim Mone)

that Michigan authorities voiced the day before: that wet, heavy snow could cause dangerous roof collapses. The snow that piled up in Illinois dur-

ing weeks of subzero temperatures started to melt in earnest as temperatures rose above freezing on Wednesday and Thursday. As work crews scrambled to clear catch basins of water to prevent flooding, some people took steps to make sure protect their belongings from any floodwaters. Emergency workers evacuated dozens of residents from a nursing home in Illinois' Kankakee County as a precaution.

"It flooded in front of my house up to my boot," said Lisa Robertson, a 50-year-old computer operator, after she got off a train in Chicago from her home in the south suburbs. "Last night, we made sure nothing was on the floor of the basement, (but) I'm worried about flooding when I get home." As of Thursday afternoon, those fears had not materialized. "It seems like it rained less here than we expected, and we are

not getting the flow of water and ice melt that we expected," said Jim Zay, chairman of the Stormwater Management Planning Committee in DuPage County west of Chicago. Meanwhile, river gauges along some of the nation's biggest inland waterways — the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers — showed no immediate cause for alarm. Many of those rivers, traditionally low this time of year, were expected to rise into the middle of next week because of recent snowmelt and rainfall, though National Weather Service hydrologists say those water levels are still far below flood stage. Even the fact that the rivers have not risen all that much has provoked worry. "It tells us the water is trapped in the snowpack," said Kent McKenzie, emergency management coordinator in Lake County in northern Illinois. □

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Bridgagate on Back-Burner at Christie Town Hall

MARC SANTORA

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On Thursday morning, Christie met with New Jersey voters for the first time since the scandal involving abuse of power and the closing of access lanes at the George Washington Bridge erupted in early January.

In his opening remarks, he acknowledged that some in the crowd could use the still-simmering scandal as a chance to lash into him.

Just be prepared, he warned, to those who thought "today is the day we are going to take the governor of New Jersey out for a walk." This is New Jersey, he said. "You are getting it right back."

But he never had to hit back, because the scandal never came up. In fact, in the course of two hours, there was only one slightly confrontational exchange. It began when the fifth questioner, a male attendee, asked about the decision to hire a private company to administer Hurricane Sandy relief funds. Christie then engaged in

the kind of spirited back-and-forth that appealed to many before the lane closing scandal but more recently has been characterized as bullying.

He defended his decision to use contractors, saying the alternative would have brought scores of additional workers onto the government payroll to run a \$15 billion to \$20 billion program. While there will always be stumbles in administering something so complicated, he said, New Jersey had been far more effective than New York in getting the money out.

"Don't take my word for it," said Christie, a Republican. "I don't," the questioner said, to audience laughter. "I know you don't," Christie replied.

Following revelations that top aides ordered the closing of lanes leading to the George Washington Bridge in September as an act of political vengeance aimed at a local mayor, Christie has denied any knowledge of the matter, apologizing to voters and promising to cooperate with state and



Protesters outside VFW Post 2179 where New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was speaking at a town-hall-style meeting about Hurricane Sandy recovery in Port Monmouth, N.J., Feb. 20, 2014.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

federal investigations. He has also tried to move past the matter, declining to comment on every new development and abstaining from public media inquiries.

Interest in the town-hall-style meeting, which was held at the VFW hall in Middletown, was so high that lines snaked down the street. The community is in Monmouth County, a Re-

publican stronghold and among the areas hardest hit by the hurricane.

Many of the questions posed to the governor concerned recovery efforts.

Christie's response in the immediate aftermath of the 2012 storm helped vault him to national prominence. He toured the devastated coastline with President Barack Obama and before too long was being mentioned as a leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016.

But in recent weeks, the bridge scandal, and the accusation by the mayor of Hoboken that the Christie administration had tied the delivery of hurricane recovery funds to its political agenda, has threatened to turn a political strength into a liability.

In his opening remarks, Christie sought to re-establish the approval that so many voters in the state say they felt before questions were raised about his administration and its methods. Pacing around the crowded VFW hall, he said the distribution of relief money was an enormous task, but one he believed his administration had done well. "I still spend every week, about 40 percent of my personal time, on Sandy," he said. "I am here because we have not forgotten."

He said he recognized that some might be dissatisfied with the pace of the effort, and asked for patience.

Several times, he was confronted by voters with painful personal stories about being unable, even now, to get back into their homes.

"I just want to go home," one woman said.

"I feel for you," Christie said, noting that her frustration was understandable. He wanted nothing more than for her to go home, he said, but he could not just provide "sunshine."

The recovery process has worked well for tens of thousands of residents, he said, but many people are still in need of help.

Christie answered questions for nearly two hours.

Though questioners refrained from asking Christie about the scandal, Democrats still sought to use the governor's meeting to their political advantage, issuing a statement only minutes after the event ended.

"Gov. Christie's problems will only get worse until he removes his ego from a political calculus that should be apolitical, and recognizes that it was the incompetence and negligence of his administration that left survivors of the storm waiting, wanting and grasping for answers that the governor's team apparently has no plans to provide," □



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Ticket sold in California wins \$425M lottery

MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Reporter

MILPITAS, California (AP) —

The lone winning ticket for the \$425 million Powerball jackpot was sold at a convenience store in Northern California, but there was no immediate word on who may have won one of the largest lottery jackpots in U.S. history.

The winning numbers drawn Wednesday night were: 1, 17, 35, 49, 54 and a Powerball of 34.

California lottery officials said the ticket was sold at Dixon Landing Chevron in Milpitas, a city north of San Jose that bills itself as The Gateway to The Silicon Valley. The business will receive \$1 million for selling the winning ticket.

Store owner Kulwinder Singh was en route to India and wasn't expected to hear about the \$1 million prize until after he landed in New Delhi around 1800 GMT Thursday and called the family, his son, Parmeet, said.

Parmeet planned to tease his dad before breaking

the news.

"Hey dad, what would you do if you had \$1 million?" he said he would ask him. His parents are humble people, he said, so he

The parking lot was crowded Thursday morning with television news vans.

Inside the store, dozens of reporters and photographers crowded the aisles



Parmeet Singh, son of Dixon Landing Chevron store owner Kulwinder Singh, left, and his uncle Karam Singh, vice president of operations, are presented with an oversized check for \$1 million at the store in Milpitas, Calif., on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014. According to California lottery officials, the store sold the lone winning ticket for a \$425 million Powerball jackpot but there was no immediate word on who may have won.

(AP Photo/Bay Area News Group, Anda Chu)

didn't expect them to splurge on anything.

The family-run gas station is just off Highway 880, with an attached carwash and Subway sandwich shop.

of snack foods as Parmeet talked about his surprise at hearing the news, and the store's regular customers bantered about the prospect that one of them

could have been the winner.

"I didn't believe it," Parmeet said. "I ran outside and yelled, 'Oh, my God!'" He and employees at the store said they did not know who the winner could be. Rajwinder Singh, one employee, said late Wednesday that he believed he was probably the person who sold the winning ticket. "I've been here working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.," he said. "I hope I'll find out soon."

The ticket was the only one to match all the winning numbers, Powerball officials said late Wednesday. The jackpot was estimated at \$425.3 million, with a cash payout option of \$242.2 million.

It's one of the largest lottery jackpots in U.S. history — but still far from the record.

A ticket for America's second-largest lottery prize ever was also purchased in the in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The nation's biggest lottery prize was a \$656 million dollar Mega Millions jackpot in 2012. The biggest Powerball jackpot was a \$590.5 million last May.

Wednesday's drawing also saw 17 tickets match enough numbers to win \$1 million, and one ticket won a \$2 million prize, according to a statement from Rose J. Hudson, chair of the Powerball Game Group and president of the Louisiana Lottery. □

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Floor collapse at Miss. church center; 35 hurt

JACK ELLIOTT Jr.
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — As a student minister preached at a youth center in Mississippi, the wooden floor started to rumble and quickly collapsed, sending about 70 people tumbling and sliding onto the first floor below.

About 35 people were injured during the youth service Wednesday night, with most of them suffering cuts and broken bones. A 16-year-old girl had a head injury, but none of the injuries was considered life-threatening. Everyone was released from the hospital by midnight.

"We were blessed by the Lord," Pastor Tommy Davis told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Today, we are getting all the inspections done to get a better perspective about what happened Wednesday night."

The two-story metal prefabricated building had been used as a community activity center for basketball games and meet-

ings in Laurel, which is in southern Mississippi. There are classrooms and a large recreation room where the young congregation had

leaders and members got their first good look inside the building Thursday.

"The floor collapsed in like a 'V' or funnel. It was an



Members of Freedom Baptist Church near Laurel, Miss. gather outside the Family Life Center following a second floor collapse that injured up to 35 youths during Wednesday night services Feb. 19, 2014. A 16-year-old girl who suffered a head injury was airlifted to Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg.

(AP Photo/The Chronicle, James Pugh)

gathered. The adult members of Freedom Baptist Church were worshipping at the church next door.

Linda Cranford, a spokeswoman for the Jones County Fire Council, said church

area of about 30 feet by 40 feet that gave way," Cranford said.

Witnesses reported hearing a low rumble before the floor gave way as student minister Kevin Price gave a

sermon.

"Kevin was preaching on everything we own isn't our own," Tori Hodge, 18, told The Chronicle newspaper in Laurel. "Everybody heard it."

The floor started crumbling and waving. People started falling through the ceiling, just like you'd see in a movie."

The floor is above a kitchen area. The drop was about 12 feet, said Sheriff Alex Hodge.

"The floor gave way right in the middle. You can see board hanging there," Jones County Emergency Operations director Marda Tullos said.

Davis, the pastor, praised the leaders of the worship service for their quick action in restoring calm. He said the students, ranging in age from 12 to 18 years, had all been reunited with their parents.

Several of those hurt were shaken but had only minor injuries and were treated and released at the scene. Others were taken to hospitals. □

Judge to assess Bieber video before release

CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — A judge said Thursday he will review police video made shortly after Justin Bieber's recent Miami Beach arrest to determine if some portions should be withheld from the public, particularly clips depicting the singer urinating into a cup as part of a drug test.

Miami-Dade County Judge William Altfeld said after a hearing he will privately review some of the roughly 10 hours of Miami Beach police video taken after Bieber's Jan. 23 arrest. The Associated Press, The Miami Herald and other media organizations are seeking release of the video, arguing there is no exemption in Florida's generous open records law allowing it to be kept under wraps.

"The right of privacy cannot trump the right of access to public records," said Deanna Shullman, the attorney for the AP and several other media outlets. "My clients have no interest in showing Mr. Bieber's private parts. You have to redact that and release the rest."

Still, Shullman and Scott Ponce, who represents the Herald and Miami's CBS affiliate, agreed with Altfeld's plan to review the four clips that show Bieber urinating into the cup, as did state prosecutors. Bieber attorney Howard Srebnick said he found it "insulting" that the videos could be released perhaps with only Bieber's nether regions censored, contending even that was a violation of privacy.

"There's no reason why the media should make a spectacle of that event," Srebnick said. □

NY prosecutor cross examines ex-Madoff worker

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A prosecutor tried to convince a Manhattan jury Thursday that Bernard Madoff's former director of operations was in the thick of his massive fraud, despite his testimony that he was far removed.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall Jackson made clear through cross examination that he disagreed with Daniel Bonventre's claims that he was duped by his notorious boss for more than four decades.

Jackson sounded disbelieving as he asked the 68-year-old witness if he re-

ally meant it when he said he was blind to the fraud in Madoff's Manhattan offices during his 40-year career there.

"In all that time, you never saw anything that raised any red flags?" Jackson asked.

"Yes," Bonventre answered.

"By yes, you mean 'correct?'" Jackson continued. "Correct," Bonventre said.

The prosecutor repeatedly confronted Bonventre with documents to show he was not as detached from Madoff's corrupt private investment business as he tried to make it seem when he was quizzed for two

days by his own lawyer.

Bonventre, among five ex-Madoff employees on trial on charges they aided the multi-decade fraud, has testified he was director of operations of Madoff's legitimate broker-dealer side of the business and was kept in the dark about Madoff's fraud. Madoff is serving a 150-year prison sentence after admitting bilking thousands of people of nearly \$20 billion.

Bonventre insisted his duties carried no responsibility for the private investment side of Madoff's business just before a series of questions from the prosecutor led Bonventre to concede that

he and Madoff's wife were the primary and secondary signatories on the account where the money for the private investment business was held.

The prosecutor also asked him why he didn't include the massive bank account for the private investment business in a general ledger that was turned over to the Securities and Exchange Commission when the agency conducted an audit in 2005.

"The bank account that housed hundreds of thousands of dollars, you didn't think belonged in the general ledger?" Jackson asked. □

US Financial Front:

American applications for jobless benefits drop to 336k



Rose Capote-Marcus, left, helps Waldemar Vega, 50, with problems he is having receiving his unemployment benefits at WorkForce One, in Davie, Fla. On Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, the Labor Department reported on the number of people who applied for U.S. unemployment benefits the previous week. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking U.S. unemployment

benefits fell a slight 3,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 336,000, a sign that layoffs remain low.

The Labor Department said

Thursday that the four-week average of applications, a less volatile measure, rose slightly to a seasonally adjusted 338,500.

The average is roughly in line with pre-recession levels and indicates that companies are cutting few jobs. Applications are a rough proxy for layoffs.

The number of applicants has stabilized in recent weeks despite modest levels of hiring in January and February. When applications for unemployment benefits remain fairly steady from week to week, it suggests that businesses are confident that customer demand will be strong enough to justify retaining their workers.

A total of 3.53 million Americans received benefits as of Feb. 1 — the latest period for which figures are available — up from 3.52 million the previous week. In recent months, snowstorms and frigid weather have contributed to a slowdown in hiring, retail sales and home construction. A scant 113,000 jobs

were added in January. That follows the addition of just 75,000 jobs in December. Job growth for the past two months is only about half the monthly average for the previous two years. Some positive signs did emerge in January's jobs report. The unemployment rate reached a five-year low of 6.6 percent. The decline from 6.7 percent occurred because more of those out of work found jobs. It was an improvement from December, when the rate fell mainly because many of the unemployed stopped searching for work. The government counts people as unemployed only if they are actively looking for a job. Builders broke ground on new homes last month at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 880,000, down 16 percent from December, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. □



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TransCanada pipeline faces new obstacle in US

GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) —

Just as pressure was building on President Barack Obama to make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline that would carry oil from Canada to refineries in Texas, the project ran into another obstacle after a judge in Nebraska overturned a state law approving the pipeline.

The legal fight over the pipeline will continue for at least several more months after the judge's ruling Wednesday, which was a victory for pipeline opponents, including environmentalists who say Keystone XL would carry "dirty oil" that contributes

to global warming and Nebraska ranchers and farmers who fear it could hurt their water supply.

TransCanada Corp.'s pipeline is critical in Canada's efforts to export its growing oil sands production. It would carry 830,000 barrels of oil daily from Canada to Texas Gulf Coast refineries. Supporters say it will create thousands of jobs and move the U.S. toward North American energy independence.

The other states along the pipeline's route — Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas — have already approved their segments. Oil is already flowing through the Oklahoma-to-Texas segment.



Rancher Randy Thompson testifies against the Keystone XL pipeline during the U.S. State Department's sole public hearing in Grand Island, Neb. A Nebraska district court struck down a law this week that allowed the Keystone XL oil pipeline to proceed through the state. The law could have been used to force landowners to allow the pipeline on their property.

(AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

TransCanada officials have said passing through Nebraska is the most direct, practical way to transport the oil. And rerouting the pipeline would bring new states into the mix and would lead to further expensive delays.

At issue in Wednesday's ruling was a 2012 law that allowed Gov. Dave Heineman to approve the route through Nebraska. The governor's approval gave Calgary-based TransCanada the power to use eminent domain on landowners who deny the company access to their property. Three landowners filed a lawsuit saying the decision should have been made by the Public Service Commission.

Lancaster County Judge Stephanie Stacy agreed. Attorney General Jon Bruning's office plans to appeal the ruling to the Nebraska Supreme Court.

A spokesman for pipeline developer TransCanada said company officials were disappointed and dis-

agreed with the decision. The company planned to review the ruling before deciding how to proceed.

"TransCanada continues to believe strongly in Keystone XL and the benefits it would provide to Americans — thousands of jobs and a secure supply of crude oil from a trusted neighbor in Canada," said spokesman Shawn Howard.

Daniel J. Weiss, senior fellow and director of climate strategy with left-leaning think tank Center for American Progress, said Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry will probably wait until Nebraska has legally approved the pipeline route before making any decision on whether to give federal approval to the pipeline.

"This court decision provides more uncertainty for pipeline proponents, and more time to organize for pipeline opponents," Weiss said.

The decision on a federal permit for the northern leg of the route still rests with

Obama, five years after backers first asked his administration for approval.

Obama blocked the Keystone XL pipeline in January 2012, saying he did not have enough time for a fair review before a looming deadline forced on him by congressional Republicans. But late last month, the U.S. State Department released an environmental analysis that raised no major environmental objections to the \$7 billion pipeline, though opponents disagree.

U.S. State Department spokesman Douglas Frantz said officials were aware of the Nebraska ruling but would not comment because the case was ongoing.

It's not the first time Nebraska has been an obstacle in TransCanada's efforts to complete the pipeline.

An earlier proposed route drew fierce opposition because landowners said it would threaten the Nebraska Sandhills, a region of grass-covered dunes used as ranchland. □

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European Union imposes sanctions in Ukraine crisis

STEPHEN CASTLE
STEVEN LEE MYERS

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BRUSSELS - Brushing aside Russian criticism, the European Union agreed Thursday to go ahead with sanctions that include travel bans and asset freezes imposed on those deemed responsible for the fatal escalation of violence in Ukraine.

A day after the United States announced some similar moves, foreign ministers of the 28-nation European Union said they would devise a list of those who would be subject to the European sanctions, and that the sanctions would also ban the export of equipment likely to be used for repression in Ukraine.

But the European foreign ministers also left themselves room to continue with dialogue with the government of President Viktor Yanukovich, stressing the importance of political progress in Kiev where the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Poland have been trying to mediate.

Britain's foreign secretary, William Hague, said the foreign ministers had acted because of the "widespread horror" at what had happened in Ukraine but that the number of those affected by the sanctions would depend on the behavior of the Ukrainian government.

"The scale of the implementation of that will depend on developments to come and of course we want to see success in government and opposition working together in order to bring about a peaceful situation and a peaceful and democratic settlement," Hague told reporters as he left the meeting

in Brussels.

The European foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, said that ministers had been "truly alarmed and

Ashton by telephone after their talks with Yanukovich. Before Thursday's meeting several ministers stressed the importance of sending

But Europeans are also keen to avoid worsening the situation by isolating the Ukrainian president, reducing the prospects of

Cameron "agreed to do all they can to secure support from all sides in Ukraine for a possible road map, proposed by European foreign ministers in Kiev earlier today, which could lead to a peaceful solution to the crisis," Cameron's office said. The European decision came as Russia stridently denounced the imposition of sanctions, both by Europe and the United States, saying such steps amounted to blackmail against the government of Yanukovich.

Russia's foreign minister, Sergei V. Lavrov, also criticized the visit by the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Poland, saying the European Union had dispatched its "latest uninvited mission" to Kiev to impose a solution by forcing Yanukovich to compromise.

"How can you expect that your services will be in demand when the parallel threat of sanctions makes everything very similar to blackmail?" Lavrov said in remarks during a visit to Iraq, according to Interfax. □



An anti-government protester holds a firearm as he mans a barricade on the outskirts of Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014. Fierce clashes between police and protesters, some including gunfire, shattered a brief truce in Ukraine's besieged capital Thursday, killing numerous people.

(AP Photo/ Marko Drobnjakovic)

shocked by the scale of violence that has taken place," and praised the work of the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Poland who briefed

a tough message to the government in Kiev and said that the Ukrainian authorities bore the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of their citizens.

reaching a negotiated settlement.

During telephone talks Thursday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister David

Deadly explosion rocks Syria border crossing

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A powerful explosion ripped through a Syrian border post Thursday near a refugee camp on the border with Turkey, setting cars ablaze and killing at least five people, Syrian opposition activists and Turkish state media said.

The blast believed to have been caused by a car bomb tore through the Bab al-Salama border crossing, also wounding a large number of people taken to hospitals in the Turkish town of Kilis across the border.

Thousands of people have fled from Aleppo through the border crossing in recent weeks because of the government's escalated aerial bombardment there. The exact number of casualties was not immediately clear.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least five people were killed, adding that the number was likely to be larger due to the number of wounded people in critical condition. Nazeer al-Khatib, an activist in Aleppo, said nine people were killed in the

car bombing, citing eyewitnesses in the area. Many others were in critical condition, he said.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu agency, meanwhile, reported that the explosion killed at least 10 people.

An online video uploaded by activists showed people ferrying casualties, including a young boy, away from the flames as ambulances rushed to the scene. The video appeared genuine and consistent with Associated Press reporting on the incident.

The Bab al-Salama cross-

ing is controlled by rivals of the al-Qaida breakaway group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The two sides have engaged in deadly infighting as the al-Qaida splinter group has sought to take over control of the crossing.

Also on Thursday, the relief agency supporting Palestinian refugees resumed food distribution inside the rebel-held district of the Syrian capital that has suffered from crippling shortages of food and medicine for months, a United Nations spokesman said. □

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Kerry 'determined' on Middle East peace deal

ARON HELLER

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said he remained "committed" and "determined" to reaching a Middle East peace deal, but said in an interview aired Thursday that he understood Israeli fears and skepticism of its outcome.

Kerry told Israeli Channel 2 TV's flagship investigative program "Uvda" that he was not distracted by naysayers on both sides and has not given up hope that a deal is attainable.

"That's not the way I operate.

I'm an optimist and I am a believer in possibilities," he said. "People who know me know that when I sink my teeth into something, if I get the bit between my teeth, I try to get it done."

Kerry has visited the region more than a dozen times since the most recent round of talks were launched in July.

With an April target date for an agreement approaching, Kerry has said he will soon return with bridging proposals for a framework deal. Recently, both sides

appear to have hardened their positions while questioning the effectiveness of Kerry's efforts.

In Israel, Kerry has come under fire from West Bank Jewish settlers who fear he

consider to be his overzealous drive for an accord, despite a Palestinian refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish state and past terrorist attacks.

The Palestinians fear rec-

dants to what is now Israel. Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon, for one, has been quoted as calling Kerry's efforts naive and foolhardy, his security plan worthless and his entire approach



US Secretary of State John Kerry, left, meets with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas about ongoing peace talks with Israel on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, in Paris.

(AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

is pushing Israel to make dangerous territorial concessions.

Some Israeli ministers also have criticized what they

ognizing Israel as a Jewish homeland would strengthen Israel in its refusal to allow the return of Palestinian refugees and their descen-

"obsessive" and "messianic."

In the interview, Kerry brushed the comments aside. □

Manufacturing in China slows to 7-month low

BEIJING (AP) — China's manufacturing contracted for a second straight month in February as a mainstay of the world's No. 2 economy loses momentum amid government efforts to rein in credit and investment growth.

The preliminary version of the HSBC Corp. purchasing managers' index fell to a seven-month low of 48.3 from January's 49.5 on a 100-point scale. China's economic activity has slowed steadily as the government tries to reduce reliance on investment in industry and infrastructure and encourage more sustainable growth based on domestic consumption.

HSBC economist Hongbin Qu said in a statement that the buildup of pressure for prices to fall "implies that the underlying momentum for manufacturing growth could be weakening."

He said policymakers can and should "fine-tune policy to keep growth at a steady pace in the coming year." February's PMI reading is the lowest since July's 47.7. It's the second month in a row that activity has contracted, after a larger-than-expected fall to 49.5 in January roiled global markets for days as investors grew concerned about fragility in China's huge manufacturing industry.

The HSBC survey is the latest evidence of the relentless slowdown in China over the past two years. Last year the economy grew 7.7 percent, which is high by the standards of advanced economies such as the U.S., Europe and Japan but barely half the 14.2 percent rate that China grew in 2007. □

Iran's London mission reopens doors after 2 years

LONDON (AP) — Iran's diplomatic mission to Britain partly reopened its doors Thursday for the first time in two years as part of a wider agreement on the thawing of tensions between the countries. Diplomats in London said that only the Iranian embassy's consular section, which handles visas and commercial affairs, resumed operations Thursday, while its political section remained closed. Nonetheless, Britain said the move represented another welcome sign of progress.

"This is the next stage of the step-by-step process of taking forward our bilateral relationship with Iran," Britain's Foreign Office said in a statement.

Iran made its London move as part of an agreement with Britain — announced Thursday on the sideline of wider negotiations in Vienna between Iran and six world powers — to end both countries' reliance on formal "protecting power" arrangements. Under that system in force since 2011, Sweden's embassy in Teh-

ran had handled the consular needs of British citizens in Iran, while Oman did the same for Iran in London.

"We will no longer have protecting powers acting as intermediaries. Diplomatic contact will now be made direct between our two countries," the Foreign Office said. It emphasized that British and Iranian officials would talk directly to each other "through non-resident charges d'affaires and officials." A charge d'affaires is typically the second-highest diplomatic

official below the ambassador.

As part of their agreement, Britain removed the Swedish flag and an accompanying Swedish "British interests" sign from the British embassy building in Tehran. In its place a British embassy plaque and an "Embassy closed" sign were erected. The Foreign Office said, in practice, any British citizens living in Iran who needed consular assistance would still have to use other EU-member embassies operating in Tehran. □

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Rebekah Brooks takes stand, claims innocence in hacking

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former News of the World editor Rebekah Brooks moved from the defendants' dock to the witness stand Thursday, arguing her innocence of phone-hacking charges in public for the first time. Almost four months into a court case that has put Britain's tabloids on trial, Brooks began her defense, claiming that while editor she had never even heard of the private investigator who has admitted prolifically hacking phones on behalf of her underlings.

Brooks, the former chief executive of Murdoch's British newspaper unit, spoke in a quiet and occasionally hesitant voice and gestured frequently with long-fingered hands as she began what is expected to be weeks of testimony.

She said that, as editor of a Sunday tabloid with a staff of 170, she had not known that phone hacking was taking place.

"It's impossible for an editor to know every source of every story," Brooks said.

She said the News of the World's investigations unit, depicted by prosecutors as a hotbed of illegal activity, used subterfuge and "investigative tools ... but always with a very good public interest."

As for Glenn Mulcaire, the private eye who has pleaded guilty to eavesdropping on voicemails, "I never heard his name."

At the start of Thursday's session Brooks was acquitted of one of five charges she had faced — a claim she illegally paid an official for a photograph of Prince William in a bikini.

Judge John Saunders ruled that there was "no case for Mrs. Brooks to answer" because uncertainty had arisen about the source of the photo.

Brooks, 45, still faces one similar charge of conspiring to commit misconduct in a public office, as well as charges of conspiring to hack phones and obstruct police.

She and six others are on trial on charges stemming from the revelation that News of the World staff eavesdropped on voicemails of celebrities, politicians and even crime victims in what prosecutors have called a "frenzy" to get scoops.

All seven defendants deny the charges.

Brooks' testimony recounted her rapid rise in the rough-and-tumble world of tabloid journalism. Hired as a researcher at the News of the World in 1989, she became the Sunday paper's deputy editor six years later, when she was 27. She served as editor from 2000 to 2003. □

Maersk: Alabama leaves port after investigation

BROCK VERGAKIS
Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — The Maersk Alabama was cleared to leave the island nation of Seychelles after authorities there completed an onboard investigation into the deaths of two Americans aboard the ship that was the focus of a 2009 hijacking dramatized in the movie "Captain Phillips," a company spokesman said Thursday.

The Americans were security officers who were found dead Tuesday in a cabin on the ship while berthed in Port Victoria in the Indian Ocean.

Seychelles police have given no cause of death for Michael Daniel Kennedy — whom the Navy has identified as a 43-year-old former SEAL — and Jeffrey Reynolds, 44.

On Thursday, police spokesman Jean Toussaint, noted that officials were awaiting autopsies and said, "As far as I know there is no evidence of physical trauma" on either man's body. He also said he wasn't not aware that the Maersk Alabama had been cleared to leave and couldn't comment on that report.

The U.S. Coast Guard has said it also is investigating the deaths.

The Maersk Alabama is a Norfolk, Va.-based container ship that provides feeder service to the east coast of Africa and employs security contractors to provide anti-piracy services. The two men who were found dead worked

for a Virginia Beach, Va.-based maritime security firm, The Trident Group.

In a statement posted on its website, The Trident Group said there "is no immediate indication as to the cause of death, but the deaths were not caused by operational activity." The Maersk Alabama's owner, the Norfolk, Va.-based Maersk Line Ltd. also has said the deaths were not related to security duties or ship operations. Company spokesman Kev-

rates who were holding Capt. Richard Phillips in a lifeboat, bringing the five-day hijacking standoff involving the Maersk Alabama to an end.

The "Captain Phillips" movie starring Tom Hanks as Capt. Richard Phillips was released last year.

Kennedy, whose home of record with the Navy was Baton Rouge, La., enlisted in 1995 and completed his final tour of duty in 2008, according to a summary of



In this photo, the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama leaves the port of Mombasa, in Kenya. Police in the Indian Ocean island nation of Seychelles said this week that two American security officers were found dead in a cabin on the Maersk Alabama.

in Speers said Thursday that the ship had already gotten underway.

The Trident Group was founded by former Navy SEALs and hires former special warfare operators to perform security. On Thursday, the Navy confirmed that Kennedy belonged to the SEALs, an elite unit of the military's special operations forces who are sometimes called upon to combat piracy.

In 2009, Navy SEALs aboard the USS Bainbridge shot and killed three of the pi-

his record, sent in an email by Navy spokeswoman Lt. Lauryn Dempsey. Kennedy was assigned to an East Coast-based SEAL team, according to the record. Virginia Beach serves as the home of the Navy's East Coast SEAL teams.

Former military personnel frequently provide security on board ships sailing through the waters off Somalia to provide security against pirate attacks. Kennedy and Reynolds boarded the ship Jan. 29, Speers said. □

Deal reached to resume expansion of Panama Canal

RAPHAEL MINDER

© 2014 New York Times

Work on the planned expansion of the Panama Canal was set to resume Thursday after the construction consortium and the canal authorities reached a preliminary accord to pay suppliers and put an end to their dispute over \$1.6 billion of cost overruns.

The work was suspended earlier this month because of the cost issue, threatening a project scheduled for completion in 2015 and designed to increase global maritime trade by allowing larger container vessels and liquefied gas tankers to travel the 50-mile canal. The dispute began on Jan. 1, when the consortium, Grupo Unidos por el Canal, said it would halt construction unless the Panama Canal Authority agreed to split the cost of the overruns. The authority, however, accused the consortium of violating its contractual obligations, five years after making the winning \$3.1 billion bid for the contract to add a third set of locks to the waterway.

Companies in the consortium include Sacyr of Spain, Impregilo of Italy, Jan De Nul of Belgium and Constructora Urbana of Panama. The disagreement also put about 10,000 jobs at risk. Under the agreement to resume work Thursday, the authority said in a statement that it would pay the consortium \$36.8 million to cover December invoices and allow the builders to cancel "pending payments and obligations to suppliers." The parties were to discuss in the following 72 hours a new timetable for finishing the locks.

"There are still some issues on which an agreement has not been reached," the authority said. Previously, the authority had threatened not only lengthy legal action against the consortium but also said it would find rival builders to complete the project. About 70 percent of the expansion work has already been done. Given the size of the project and its contribution to world trade, governments in Europe and Panama had also been involved since January in efforts to end

the contract dispute. While cost overruns are common for such ambitious projects, the level of overruns in this case - about half of the value of the contract - is

unusually large.

At a time when large infrastructure projects have all but dried up in Spain, one of the countries hit hardest by the euro debt crisis,

the Panama project was seen as a lifeline for Sacyr and as a boon to the international reputation of the entire Spanish construction sector. □



Machinery lie idle at the construction site of the Panama Canal expansion project in Gatun, Panama. Work on the planned expansion of the Panama Canal was set to resume this week.

(AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

Filipino chief: China claims are nonsense

CHRIS BRUMMITT

OLIVER TEVES

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The Philippines military

chief vowed Thursday to defend the country's fishermen against any Chinese "terror or intimidation" in the South China Sea, the latest sign of sharpening tensions in what is a potential global flash point.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Gen. Emmanuel Baustita said Chinese claims to islands just off the Philippine coast are "of course absolute nonsense. Just take a look at

the map."

China claims almost the whole of the vast South China Sea, which is believed to have significant oil and gas deposits. Beijing has been increasingly assertive in pressing its claims in the ocean against its smaller neighbors, sending navy ships into contested waters and harassing fishing fleets of nations with rival claims.

"Our fishermen will continue on fishing, assert their rights on those areas. They should go on with their lives and live their life as fishermen, not to bow down to terror or intimidation," Baustita said, referring to an incident in which he said a fishing vessel was sprayed by a water cannon on a Chinese boat. □



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Carnival spirit sweeps through Aruba!

NOORD - Carnival Queen Elections are held at different resorts on the island each year. Most recently they were held at Caribbean Palm Village in the presence of many employees, members of management and guests with four well-prepared candidates from the housekeeping department competing for the ultimate title of Carnival Queen!

Milady Sarmiento, Agnes Rodriguez, Janet Brinkman and Jacqueline Loopstok all dressed up in colorful carnival costumes, did their best to impress the judges with their Carnival spirit and enthusiastic dance moves.

The panel of professional judges Madeleine Pappers of Madeleine Spa, Anky Paesch of Sweet Peppers restaurant, Merari Servante, a true Carnival aficionado and artist, school teacher Rhona Lemminga, enjoyed the presentation over snacks and drinks, with resort guests and staffers who came to show their support to their favorite candidate, as their audience.

Finally, the judges announced the results with Agnes Rodriguez elected Mrs. Carnival, Milady Sarmiento, 1st runner-up and Janet Brinkman, 2nd runner up. The winners were all showered with prizes, gifts and heartfelt applause.

This year's queen was crowned by last year's outgoing queen Rosalba Ras-mijn, assisted by last year's outgoing 1st runner up Monica Kock.

The annual event comes at the heels of the guest Carnival Queen election, as the resort hosts two fun-filled coronations each year, supporting and sustaining Carnival festivities on the island. □



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EAGLE BEACH –Valentine's Day was celebrated this year by showering associates with tokens of appreciation at the Chit Chat Café, the associate Cafeteria at La Cabana Resort, hosted by the Security department. The diligent security agents demonstrated their big hearts by delivering bear hugs, roses and chocolates, in a decorated dining room, in the relevant color, red, naturally. The entire resort became Valentine's Headquarters for the day offering members of the family a true gift of love and romance. □



Cheers to Bugaloe's Guests of the Week: Carol and Joe Mondello!



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The best memory they have of Bugaloe was when Joe started a conga line at another fun night at Bugaloe and almost the whole bar was dancing along with him!

The Bugaloe crew would

PALM BEACH - Bugaloe's guests of the week are Carol and Joe Mondello from Levittown Long Island New York.

They have been coming to Aruba for 14 years and just love spending their time at the beach and of course Bugaloe.

What they like best about Bugaloe is the friendly staff, the fantastic food and the great entertainment, with



like to thank Carol and Joe for being such loyal Bugaloe guests and hope to see them more often. □



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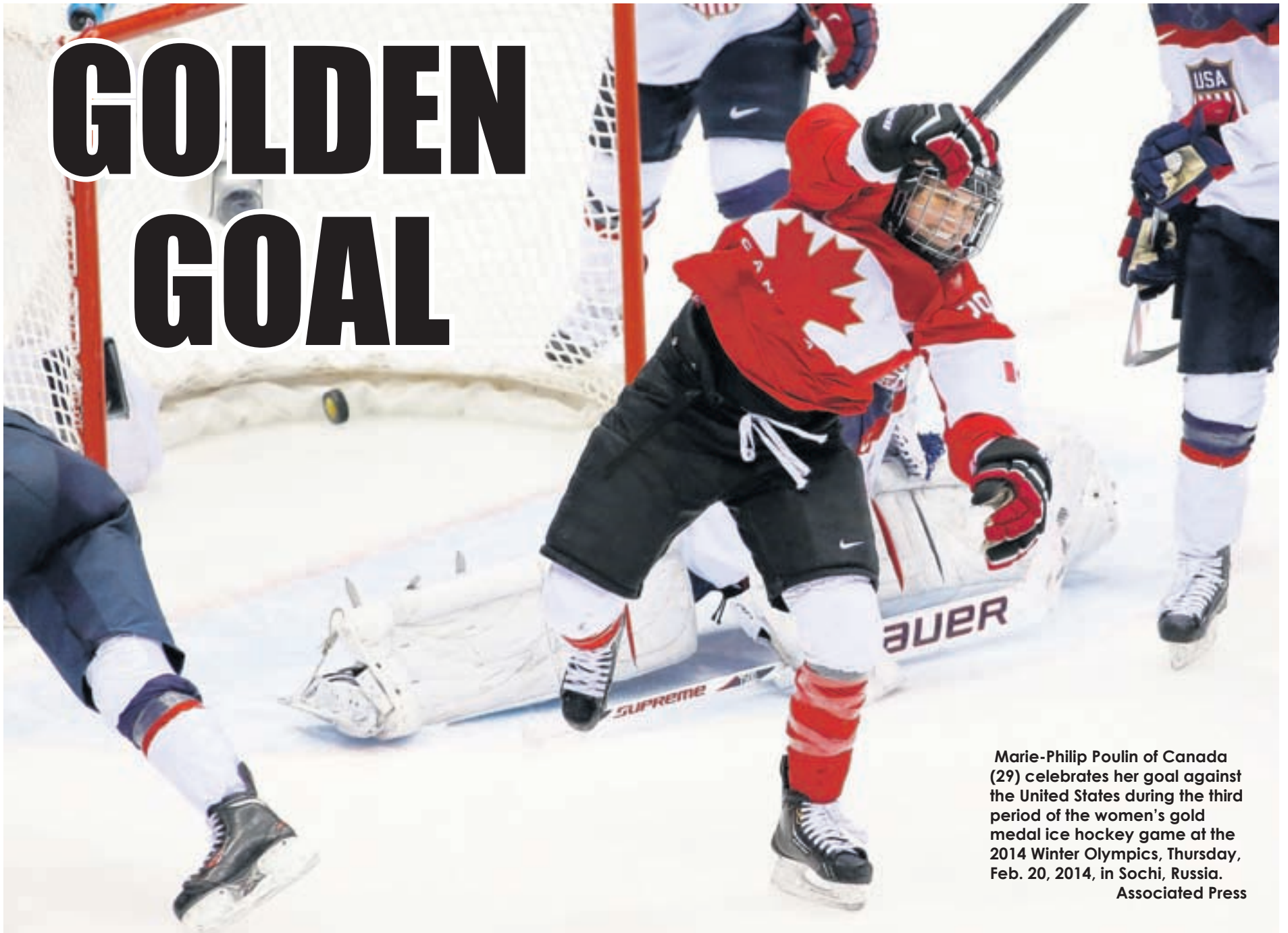
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Marie-Philip Poulin of Canada (29) celebrates her goal against the United States during the third period of the women's gold medal ice hockey game at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.
Associated Press

U.S. women lose hockey gold in heartbreaking fashion

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — A two-goal lead blown in the final four minutes. A long shot that clanged off the post of an empty net. Two perplexing penalties in overtime, setting up a golden goal for Canada. The U.S. women's hockey team has lost late in the last four Olympics, but never in such preposterously heartbreaking fashion as this 3-2 defeat on Thursday night. While the Canadians received their fourth straight gold medals, the Americans were left blank-faced

or crying at Bolshoy Ice Dome. Sixteen years after the first generation of U.S. players won the inaugural Olympic tournament, these Americans thought Canada's Olympic mastery over them had finally waned. Instead, they've got four more years to think about how the Canadians manage to seize their sport's biggest moment while the U.S. gets left holding silver. "To let them come back in the gold-medal game at the Olympics is the worst feeling in the world," said Kelli Stack, who nearly became an improbable hero

with a long clearing attempt that hit the right post of an empty net late in regulation. Stack actually knew she hadn't scored when she flipped the puck down the ice in the waning seconds. From her vantage point, she could tell it was going to hit the post even before that clunk of rubber against metal. "If it would have been an inch to the right, it would have went in, and we would have won the gold medal," said Stack, shaking her head. "When pucks don't bounce your way,

you've just got to know that it wasn't meant to be." Everything seemed dramatically different in the first 56 minutes. With a 2-0 lead, U.S. goalie Jessie Vetter appeared to be eminently capable of shutting out Canada for the first time in Olympic history, and the small contingent of U.S. fans was bouncing in its seats. "I just kept thinking 'We're going to win,'" U.S. captain Meghan Duggan said. "I looked over at one of our goaltenders, I said, 'There's no way they're going to score two goals on Vetts.

She's hot right now.'" What happened next is what Duggan calls "crazy mode" — those frantic final minutes of a hockey game when the goalie skates to the bench and her teammates try anything to will the puck into the net. The Bolshoy got crazy, all right. Brienne Jenner scored with 3:26 to play, banking a wide-flying shot off Kacey Bellamy's knee. "Bad puck luck," Bellamy said.

Continued on page 20

NBA Capsules

Love has 42 points, 16 boards, Wolves beat Pacers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Love had 42 points and 16 rebounds, Ricky Rubio added a career-high 17 assists, and the Minnesota Timberwolves beat Paul George and the Indiana Pacers 104-91 on Wednesday night.

J.J. Barea scored 12 points off the bench as the Wolves took control early against the Eastern Conference leaders.

George led Indiana with 35 points, but managed just two in the fourth quarter as the Pacers lost for the third time in five games, never once taking a lead.

It was Love's eighth straight game with at least 25 points and 10 rebounds, the longest streak since Shaquille O'Neal accomplished the same feat Jan. 3-19, 2005. Love has an NBA-best 14 games with 30 points and 10 rebounds this season.

SPURS 111, TRAIL BLAZERS 109

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Patty Mills came off the bench to score 29 points, Marco Belinelli hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:34 remaining and San Antonio defeated Portland in a game between short-handed teams.

Mills scored 24 points during the second half to lead the Spurs, who rested starters Tim Duncan and Tony Parker. Belinelli had 20 points and Manu Ginobili 16 for San Antonio, which also sat Kawhi Leonard with an injured right hand.

Damian Lillard scored 31 points, Mo Williams added 19 points and Wesley Matthews had 18 for Portland, which played without LaMarcus Aldridge. The Trail Blazers' leading scorer and rebounder is out with a groin injury.

Both teams had six players score in double figures.

ROCKETS 134, LAKERS 108

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dwight Howard thoroughly enjoyed his visit to the team he left as a free agent after one tumultuous and contentious season, getting 20

points and 13 rebounds in a rout of Los Angeles that extended Houston's winning streak to eight.

The streak is Houston's longest since a franchise-record, 22-game run in 2007-08 under Rick Adelman. James Harden scored 11 of his 29 points in the final 1:25 of the third quarter and added 11 assists.

Wesley Johnson scored 24 points for Los Angeles, and Kendall Marshall had 20 points and 16 assists.

BULLS 94, RAPTORS 92

TORONTO (AP) — Carlos Boozer scored 20 points, D.J. Augustin had 19 against his former team and Chicago edged Toronto to win its fourth straight game.

Kirk Hinrich scored 19 points, Jimmy Butler had 16 and Taj Gibson fouled out with 10 as the Bulls won for the fifth time in six games and halted Toronto's winning streak at three. Joakim Noah had eight points and 13 assists for the Bulls.

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 32 points but had a couple key misses at the end. Kyle Lowry fouled out with 16 points and seven assists.

Augustin, waived by Toronto in December, hit two 3-pointers early in the third as Chicago took a 76-66 lead at 9:34.

WARRIORS 101, KINGS 92

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — David Lee had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Klay Thompson scored 18 points and Golden State held off Sacramento in a game both teams played short-handed.

Stephen Curry added 13 points and eight assists for the Warriors in the first game following the All-Star break for each team. Golden State is 3-0 against Sacramento this season.

With both centers out with injuries and a shorter roster from trades each team made earlier in the day, the depth of the Warriors was just too much for the Kings to overcome.

Isaiah Thomas had 26

points and seven assists, and Travis Outlaw scored 18 points for a Sacramento team that's headed for an eighth straight losing season.

CAVALIERS 101, MAGIC 93
CLEVELAND (AP) — Kyrie Irving scored 22 points and Cleveland won its sixth straight by beating Orlando.

Irving, chosen MVP of the NBA All-Star game Sunday, paced a balanced offense that extended the Cavaliers' longest winning streak since they won eight in a row in March 2010. That was LeBron James' final season in Cleveland. □



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Canada hockey win breaks string of firsts in Sochi

DAVID PACE

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Canada won its fourth straight women's Olympic hockey title, breaking Thursday's pattern of first-time winners on the slopes and ice of the Sochi Games.

Down 2-0 in the final period, the Canadians rallied to force overtime, and then won it on Marie-Philip Poulin's power play goal 8:10 into the extra period. It marked the fourth time the two North American powers have met for the gold. The U.S. won only the sport's inaugural Olympic title in 1998.

Elsewhere, it was a day of firsts.

France swept the podium in the men's skicross, claiming all three medals in a Winter Games event for the first time; Adelina Sotnikova gave Russia its first Olympic gold in women's figure skating; Canada won its first gold medal in women's curling; and Maddie Bowman of the US won gold in the debut of women's halfpipe skiing. Also, perennial Winter Games power Norway won the Nordic combined team competition — and its games-leading 10th gold medal.

On Day 14 of the Sochi Olympics, a Ukrainian skier withdrew from competitions in response to the



Adelina Sotnikova of Russia competes in the women's free skate figure skating finals at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the 2014 Winter Olympics, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

Associated Press

deaths of dozens of anti-government protesters in her country.

"I don't want to participate when in my country people die," Bogdana Matsotska told The Associated Press.

FIGURE SKATING: The 17-year-old Sotnikova's victory dropped defending champion Yuna Kim into second place. Julia Lipnitskaia, the Russian sen-

sation with the weight of a nation on her 15-year-old shoulders, again fell during her routine and ended up fifth. Carolina Kostner of Italy took bronze. The Russians have won three figure skating gold medals at the Sochi Olympics: team, pairs and women's. Only the women's was a surprise.

ICE HOCKEY: Poulin also scored Canada's tying

goal in the final minute of regulation. Brienne Jenner scored the other for Canada, which has won 20 straight in the Winter Games since the Nagano final in 1998. Meghan Duggan and Alex Carpenter scored for the U.S. Switzerland beat Sweden for the bronze medal.

FREESTYLE: The 20-year-old Bowman edged silver-

medalist Marie Martinod of France in ski halfpipe, while Ayana Onozuka of Japan took the bronze. Bowman put together a pair of athletic runs that produced the two highest scores in the finals. In the men's skicross, Jean-Frederic Chapuis won the gold to lead the French 1-2-3 finish. Arnaud Bovolenta won silver and Jonathan Midol captured bronze.

Hockey

Continued from page 18

Poulin's tying goal was another bad break: Vetter attempted a poke-check after the puck came out from behind the net, but it somehow went straight to Canada's soft-spoken Quebecois hero.

Even during the break before overtime, the Americans remained confident. Stack recalled only encouragement in the dressing room at a time when the Americans had expected to be celebrating. And then in overtime, the whistles started.

Neither team could under-

stand the referees' eagerness to call penalties in an Olympic overtime, which is already 4-on-4 hockey. Just 6 seconds after Canada's Catherine Ward was sent off for a big hit near the net, Jocelyne Lamoureux was penalized for slashing on a single whack at Shannon Szabados' pads with the puck underneath them. "It stinks to go into an overtime in an up-and-down game and have so many penalties called," Stack said. "It would have been great if we could have played 4-on-4 for 20 minutes or whatever."

Moments later during 3-on-3 play, a bad U.S. line change gave a break-away to Canada's Hayley

Wickenheiser. Hilary Knight swooped in from behind, and Wickenheiser tumbled to the ice.

The officials curiously called Knight for cross-checking instead of either awarding a penalty shot or allowing play to continue. Replays showed no significant contact between the two, except perhaps Knight's right skate clipping Wickenheiser's right skate from behind — which isn't cross-checking.

"I didn't touch her," Knight said. "She fell. That was a bogus call. But it's not about any one call." Poulin ended it 39 seconds later.

The pain was palpable on the faces of the Americans,

Canada's only rival in this young sport.

The U.S. women really had seemed destined to triumph in Sochi, repeatedly playing better than the Canadians in exhibitions and tournaments. What's more, Canada coach Dan Church abruptly quit in mid-December.

Everything was in place for a U.S. breakthrough until Canada broke away again.

"You can't take the sting away," coach Katey Stone said. "You just have to tell them how proud you are of them and how much they mean to you and what a tremendous privilege and honor it was to be a part of it." □

NORDIC COMBINED: Norway finished third in the ski jumping and had to start the 20-kilometer race behind. But cross-country ski specialist Mangus Moan made up the deficit on the first leg and Norway outdueled Germany and defending champion Austria in the relay. Germany, which had the lead after the ski jump, took silver and Austria got the bronze.

CURLING: Canada's 6-3 gold medal victory in women's Olympic curling came at the expense of Sweden, which had beaten the Canadians for the title in Vancouver four years ago. Britain won the bronze by beating Switzerland 6-5. □

Williams sisters reach Dubai semifinals

SANDRA HARWITT
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Top-ranked Serena Williams had little trouble joining sister Venus, in the Dubai Championships semifinals on Thursday.

Serena, playing her first tournament since a fourth-round loss at the Australian Open, had little trouble bypassing fifth-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia 6-2, 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

The only blip in Williams' game came when she lost serve in a tentatively played fifth game in the first set.

"She was the better player tonight," Jankovic said. "Way better."

"I just played a bad match on my terms."

The only drama in the 76-minute match came in the final game with Jankovic serving.

The umpire, Kader Nouni of France, told Jankovic she was serving too fast and then too slow, when taking more than the 25 seconds allotted.

Williams was briefly brought into the fray when Jankovic made note that Williams often took more than the 25 seconds allowed to serve. After the match, the players conversed at the net and both reported they left

the court on good terms.

"I told her at the end, 'Look, I didn't mean anything. I'm sorry if I played slow,'" Williams said. "She was like, 'No, it was more like they say (I) play too fast and then too slow.' She said she couldn't get it right."

"I was like, 'Look, are we cool because I'm cool with you?'"

In that final game, Jankovic initially rebounded from love-40 before Williams won on a fourth match point with a scorching forehand passing shot.

Williams will play Alize Cornet of France in the semifinals. Cornet scored a 7-5, 6-3 win over Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain.

Venus Williams reached her fourth Dubai semifinal with a 6-3, 7-5 win over qualifier Flavia Pennetta of Italy.

Williams, who won this title in 2009 and 2010, had to serve for the match twice in the second set.

"She just keeps fighting," Williams said of Pennetta. "She stays relevant. That's what she does really well. I have to give her credit for that."

Serving at 5-4 in the second set, Williams missed out on a match point when Pennetta hit a forehand cross-court winner to bring the score to deuce. Four points later and Pennetta broke

Venus Williams of the U.S. reacts during a match against Flavia Pennetta of Italy during the quarter final of Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014. Associated Press

serve to even the score at 5-5.

After Pennetta dropped serve in the 11th game Williams had a second chance to close out the match. Initially, Williams fell behind 0-40. On a second match point Pennetta popped a return long to concede the win.

Williams will play eighth-seeded Caroline Wozniacki, the 2011 Dubai champion, in Friday's semifinals. Wozniacki had little trouble dispatching 27th-ranked Sorana Cirstea of Romania 6-1, 6-2.

"That was really pleasing, and I always know that Sorana can be a tricky opponent," Wozniacki said. "I felt like I served well and I put the pressure on her and played the way I wanted to play today."

Although not guaranteed, Venus Williams wasn't opposed to thinking ahead to the possibility of an all-Williams final on Saturday. "It would be fantastic," Venus said. "But we both have to get there." □



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Gulbis and Dodig advanced to Open 13 quarterfinals

MARSEILLE, France (AP)

— Third-seeded Ernests Gulbis of Latvia reached the Open 13 quarterfinals on Thursday after a hard-fought 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 win against Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain, while Michael Llodra advanced again in one of his favorite local tournaments.

Gulbis had 23 aces but needed more than two hours to win.

Llodra, the 2010 champion and two-time runner-up,

put out fourth-seeded Andreas Seppi of Italy 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff also secured an upset, beating seventh-seeded Julien Benneteau, the 2010 finalist, 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-3. Fifth-seeded Ivan Dodig of Croatia, No. 6 Edouard Roger-Vasselin of France, and No. 8 Nicolas Mahut of France progressed.

Dodig beat Germany's Tobias Kamke 6-7 (4), 6-0, 6-3, Roger-Vasselin advanced

with a 7-6 (2), 6-4 win against Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine to his third quarterfinals of the season, and Mahut won 7-6 (5), 6-3 against Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania.

On Friday, Dodig faces top-seeded Richard Gasquet of France, Gulbis plays Mahut, Struff is up against Llodra and Roger-Vasselin takes on defending champion Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the second seed, in an all-French match. □

McDowell makes another escape in Match Play

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP) —

Getting to the round of 16 in the Match Play Championship was all that mattered Thursday.

Jordan Spieth made it look like child's play. Graeme McDowell aged another 10 years with another stunning escape. And it proved too difficult for Henrik Stenson, Justin Rose and Rory McIlroy, who lost in extra holes on another wild day at Dove Mountain.

"I thought I was dead and buried both days," McDowell said.

One day after he rallied from 3 down with three holes to play to win in overtime, McDowell was two holes behind on the 15th tee when he made an 8-foot birdie, halved the next hole with a 10-foot par, won the 17th with a birdie and then holed a 6-foot par putt on the 18th for a 1-up win over Hideki Matsuyama of Japan.

In two matches, McDowell has stood on the tee with his match all square only four times — and two of those were at the start of the match.

Jason Day already has played 40 holes in two rounds. He won a tough match against Thorbjorn Olesen in the opening



Graeme McDowell, of Northern Ireland, waves after a birdie on the seventh hole in his match against Hideki Matsuyama, of Japan, during the second round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

round, then rallied from 3 down early in his match against Billy Horschel and beat him 22 holes.

"Doesn't matter how you get it done," Day said. "Find a way to win."

Stenson, the No. 1 seed, fell behind early against

Louis Oosthuizen and never caught up in a 4-and-3 loss. It was the sixth straight year, dating to Tiger Woods winning the Accenture Match Play Championship in 2008, that the top seed failed to make it out of the second round.

Rose (No. 2) and McIlroy (No. 3) followed him.

In one of the best matches of the day, Ernie Els poured in one clutch putt after another to stay in the match, and then beat the reigning U.S. Open champion. Els made got up-and-down on the 18th hole by making a 6-foot par putt. Els and Rose both made 10-foot birdie putts on the 19th hole, and then Els finally got a break to go his way in a format that has haunted him over the years.

His approach settled on the slope of the bunker's collar, and while the shot didn't go as planned, it was close to perfect.

"It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime shots, really," Els said.

"I caught it a smidgen thin, and it just came out perfectly. It hit the bank and just trickled over to about 4 feet. It was an impossible shot, but it was obviously the right one at the time." Rose left his shot in the bunker.

McIlroy had his hands full against English, who has two PGA Tour wins in the last nine months. Boy Wonder managed a strong comeback, however, winning three straight holes for a 1-up lead with two to play. English responded with a 20-foot birdie putt to

square the match, and off they went to overtime.

McIlroy went from the left rough to the desert on the 19th hole, and his only hope was to play an explosion shot that came off perfectly.

It didn't, sailing over the green by the television tower. He made double bogey and was headed home to Florida, though hardly depressed.

"He played really solid today and didn't really do much wrong, didn't really give me anything," McIlroy said. "I don't feel in any way disappointed leaving so early because I feel like my game is there. I'm looking forward to the next couple of weeks."

Sergio Garcia at No. 5 is now the top seed remaining after his 3-and-1 victory over Bill Haas.

Next up for Garcia is Rickie Fowler, who is finding this format to his liking. Coming off three straight missed cuts, Fowler outlasted one of golf's hottest players, Jimmy Walker, in 18 holes.

Kuchar had a 1-up victory over Ryan Moore in a match so close that 15 of the 18 holes were halved. Kuchar, the defending champion and a former U.S. Amateur winner, improved to 17-3 in this tournament. □

Heavyweight champion shocked at Ukraine deaths

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Senior Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) —

Heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko expressed shock and revulsion Thursday at the deaths in his country, and said Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich must step down before civil war engulfs the nation.

Klitschko, the brother of opposition leader Vitali Klitschko, said the situation in Ukraine had spiraled out of control because of government provocation.

"My own people are killing each other. It's something worse than a dream," Klitschko said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from Ham-

burg. "I am just speechless. I can't believe something like this is happening in my country." Klitschko, who was in Kiev last month when the demonstrations were still peaceful, claimed the deaths in recent days were part of a government plan to break the opposition by forcing the Army to come in and impose martial law. He called on the world to hold Yanukovich responsible for the violence, which he compared to some of the worst actions of dictators of the past.

"The way he acts is as a terrorist," Klitschko said. "If he's going to keep doing what he's doing he definitely put himself in the footsteps of (late Libyan dictator



Wladimir Klitschko, left, and Alex Leapai attend a press conference ahead of the IBF, IBO, WBO and WBA heavyweight title bout on April 26, 2014 between Wladimir Klitschko of Ukraine and Alex Leapai of Australia in Oberhausen, Germany, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014.

Associated Press

Moammar) Gadhafi.

Klitschko said he was horrified at the scenes of violence in Kiev, and video of bodies lying side by side on the edge of the demonstration. He said demonstrators had been peaceful for three months, and that the government instigated the fighting that left many dead and buildings in flames. "It's brothers killing brothers, which is not acceptable," he said. "There is enough video documentation online you can see in daylight people getting shot just standing there. I'm not talking about one, we're talking about 100 people in different ways killed, either by torturing or snipers." □

Stores can see where you go by tracking your phone

JENNIFER C. KERR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Should shoppers turn off their smartphones when they hit the mall? Or does having them on lead to better sales or shorter lines at the cash register?

U.S. retailers are using mobile-based technology to track shoppers' movements at some malls and stores. The companies collecting the information say it's anonymous, can't be traced to a specific person and no one should worry about invasion of privacy. But consumer advocates aren't convinced. It's spying, they say, and shoppers should be informed their phones are being observed and then be able to choose whether to allow it. The Federal Trade Commission held a workshop Wednesday on the issue, part of a series of privacy seminars looking at emerging technologies and the impact on consumers. FTC attorney Amanda Koulousias says the commission wants to better understand how companies are using phone-location technology, how robust privacy controls are and whether shoppers are notified in advance.

Here's how the technology works:

—Your smartphone has a unique identifier code — a MAC address — for Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. It's a 12-character string of letters and numbers. Think of it like a personal identification number, but this address is not linked to personal information, like your name, email address or phone number. The numbers and letters link only to a specific phone.

—When your smartphone is turned on, it sends out signals with that MAC address (for media access control) as it searches for Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Those signals can also be captured by sensors in stores that could tell a department store how often shoppers visit, how long they stay, whether they spend more time in the shoe department, children's clothing section or sporting goods, or whether



Technologist Seth Schoen holds a cell phone as it displays information, also seen on the screen behind, during a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) mobile tracking demonstration, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, in Washington. Associated Press

they stop for the window display, take a pass and decide to move on.

Companies that provide "mobile location analytics" to retailers, grocery stores, airports, and others say they capture the MAC addresses of shoppers' phones but then scramble them into different sets of numbers and letters to conceal the original addresses — a process called hashing. This is how they make the data they collect anonymous, they say.

The companies then analyze all the information those hashed numbers provide as shoppers move from store to store in a mall, or department to department in a store. Mall managers could learn which stores are popular and which ones aren't. A retailer could learn how long the lines are at a certain cash register, how long people have to wait — or whether more people visit on "sale" days at a store.

"We're in the business of helping brick and mortar retailers compete" with online retailers, said Jim Riesenbach, CEO of California-based ilnside, a mobile location analytics company. "The retailers want to do the right thing because

they know that if they violate the trust of consumers, there will be a backlash."

Privacy advocates, though, argue that the scrambled or "hashed" MAC addresses aren't completely secure. They can be cracked, says Seth Schoen, senior staff technologist at the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

And that could reveal data that people may not want to share.

"There might be some place that you go that you wouldn't want people to know about," said Schoen. While not necessarily worried about foot traffic at a mall, Schoen raised concerns about down-the-road scenarios, like apps that could track where a person goes, whom that person is with — possibly the kind of information a divorce lawyer or law enforcement might seek.

The retail tracking is a relatively new technology. Nordstrom tried a small pilot test in 17 of its more than 250 stores in September 2012. The company posted signs at doors telling shoppers they could opt out by turning off their Wi-Fi. Nordstrom ended the trial in May 2013 after some customers complained, saying they

felt uncomfortable, spokeswoman Brooke White said. An AP-GfK poll in January found half of Americans were extremely or very concerned about the ability of retailers to keep their personal information secure. Older Americans were far more concerned about the safety of that information than younger ones — 59 percent of those age 50 or over said they were extremely or very concerned about it, compared with 46 percent age 30 to 49 and 32 percent of people under age 30.

Some of the major players in the field of mobile location analytics — ilnside, Euclid, Mexia Interactive and others — have agreed to a "code of conduct" advanced by a Washington-based think tank, the Future of Privacy Forum. It calls for "hashing" MAC addresses, notification signs in stores for consumers and an opt-out website for people to enter their phones' MAC addresses to prevent companies from tracking them. The opt-out website can be found at www.smartstoreprivacy.org. □

Bitcoin ATM arrives at Boston rail hub

BOSTON (AP) — A Bitcoin ATM has landed at a Boston rail hub, allowing commuters to learn about the digital currency. On Wednesday, the ATM was placed by Liberty Teller at Boston's bustling South Station, which sees thousands of commuters a day. It and an ATM in Albuquerque, New Mexico, are believed to be the first in the country. Liberty Teller founder Kyle Powers says the ATM gives people the chance to learn about the volatile currency, because after buying some, they can watch a company tutorial on its use. Colleague Chris Yim says the money can be stored in a virtual wallet and used at online retailers in place of cash or credit cards. Bitcoin is an open-source currency affiliated with no country or bank, which can be bought and sold anonymously. □

Google moves to expand Fiber, its fast internet

CLAIRE CAIN MILLER

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Google is taking steps to expand Fiber, its ultrahigh-speed Internet service, to as many as 34 cities in nine metropolitan areas.

Google has already started installing fiber-optic cables - which offer Internet connections 100 times the speed of typical copper cables - in Austin, Texas; Kansas City, Kan.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Provo, Utah. The faster the Internet connection, the more people

will use online products, including Google's, the company has said.

Google said this week that it would consider installing Fiber in the Atlanta, Phoenix, Nashville, Salt Lake City and San Antonio metropolitan areas, as well as the areas of Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham in North Carolina; San Jose, Calif.; and Portland, Ore.

Instead of choosing cities and promising to install Fiber, Google is inviting cities to do much of the legwork

- preparing infrastructure maps and paving the way for permit requests - before Google will decide whether to proceed.

The company said it would tell the 34 cities whether they had been selected by the end of the year.

The initial installations have offered lessons for Google, which is not used to challenges like tearing up roads and trying to please citizens and local officials.

"We're acknowledging readily now that building a

telecom network or fiber-optic network is a really big job," said Kevin Lo, general manager of Google Fiber. "One big push in one city can be enormously disruptive to a community that's not ready, both for residents and city officials."

Google, which declined to comment on its costs for Fiber, charges \$120 a month for gigabit Internet plus television service in both Kansas City, Kan.; and Kansas City, Mo. □

US consumer prices rose 0.1% over January

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer prices barely rose last month as a sharp increase in energy costs was offset by cheaper clothing, cars and air fares. The figures indicate inflation remains mild.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the consumer price index rose just 0.1 percent in January, down from a 0.2 percent gain in December. Prices have risen 1.6 percent in the past 12 months. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices also rose just 0.1 percent last month and 1.6 percent in the past year.

The year-over-year increase in core prices was the smallest in seven months. The "mild uptick ... confirms the fact that inflationary pressures remain well contained," Martin Schwedtfeger, an economist at TD Bank, said in a note to clients.

The small increase occurred even though cold weather pushed up the cost of natural gas, electricity and other home energy sources by the most in more than five years.

Yet other items fell or barely rose: Food prices increased just 0.1 percent, and the cost of men's clothing fell by the most in nearly five years. New and used car and truck prices also dropped, and airline fares declined 2.2 percent. Inflation has been held back by sluggish growth and a tough job market, which makes it harder for retailers and other businesses to raise prices.

Consumer prices rose just 1.5 percent in 2013, down from 1.8 percent in 2012. Both figures are below the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target.

While most Americans prefer lower prices, economists warn that super-low inflation may slow economic growth. It can lead consumers to postpone purchases and makes inflation-adjusted interest rates higher, potentially discouraging borrowing. □

Stocks rise as US manufacturing expands

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. stock market got a boost on Thursday from a couple of encouraging signs that the economy could pick up after a winter slump. That wiped out a drop from

to expand in the first half of the year.

"Today's market is reflecting the fact that the economy has gone through the doldrums due to the weather and we should now see a substantial pickup," said Peter Cardillo, chief mar-

interest rates should come "relatively soon."

The Nasdaq composite climbed 29.59 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,267.55.

The stock market is now close to erasing all of its losses after a volatile start to the year. Concerns

\$35.32 after the company said late Wednesday that discussions are ongoing but that it hasn't yet reached an agreement on a transaction.

Tesla Motors was also another winner after posting strong earnings and forecasting a sharp rise in sales this year. Tesla's stock jumped \$16.33, or 8.4 percent, to \$209.97.

Stocks moved between small gains and losses in the first hour of trading as investors weighed the data from the U.S. against a survey that showed manufacturing in China contracted for a second straight month in February.

Data showing weakness in China's manufacturing sector had pushed stocks lower in January, but on Thursday investors decided to focus on the positive news out of the U.S., and by late morning stocks moved decisively higher. The S&P 500 ended the day nine points short of its record high of 1,848.38 set Jan. 15. After a surge of almost 30 percent in the S&P 500 in 2013, the market has become more volatile this year.

Given those strong gains, the market will struggle to climb much further this year, said Tom Karsten, an investment adviser at Karsten Advisors.

"While we may see continued economic growth, I don't think that it's powerful enough to justify that there would really be much upward possibility for equity prices," said Karsten. □



Trader George Ettinger works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The U.S. stock market got a boost on Thursday from a couple of encouraging signs that the economy could pick up after a winter slump.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

the day before triggering by some unnerving news from the Federal Reserve. Manufacturing in the U.S. expanded at the fastest pace in almost four years in February, according to a private survey by Markit. In a separate report, the Conference Board said that its index of leading indicators posted a moderate gain in January, suggesting that the economy will continue

ket economist at Rockwell Global Capital.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11.03 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,839.78. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 92.67 points, or 0.6 percent, to 16,133.23. The Dow fell 89 points Wednesday after minutes from the Fed's latest meeting showed that a few policymakers raised the possibility that an increase in

about slowing growth in China and other emerging markets, as well as worries about the health of the U.S. economy, had pushed the S&P 500 down almost six percent for the year by the start of February.

Among individual stocks, Safeway rose after the grocer said it was in talks to put itself up for sale. The grocer's stock climbed 71 cents, or 2.1 percent, to

Peltz: PepsiCo should still split drinks, snacks

NEW YORK (AP) — Activist investor Nelson Peltz is ramping up the pressure on PepsiCo, reaffirming his call for the company to separate its global drinks division from its snack unit.

The call for a split comes as PepsiCo's drinks, which include Mountain Dew, Tropicana and Aquafina, have lost ground to bigger rival Coca-Cola Co. in recent years. U.S. soda consumption in general has also been on the decline, with people worried about the calories in regular soda and

the artificial sweeteners in diet sodas.

Peltz's Trian Fund Management sent a letter to PepsiCo Inc. on Wednesday, saying it views "structural change as the best path forward to generate sustainable increases in shareholder value."

Trian also said that it believes PepsiCo's beverage unit can generate more cash flow under "focused leadership."

"Freed of allocated corporate costs and bureaucracy, and able to be nimble

and lean, we believe a standalone beverage business will not only compete, but thrive," the letter states. Trian said it is so confident in the value of a separate beverage business that it would buy additional shares and be willing to join the board of a newly created beverage business to help lead it going forward. The investment fund said it plans to meet with fellow shareholders and hopes to create a groundswell of support that prompts PepsiCo to take action.

Trian has pushed for changes at PepsiCo since November. Funds managed by the company own about \$1.2 billion of PepsiCo common stock.

PepsiCo said last week that after finishing an "exhaustive" review involving "bankers and consultants," it decided its current combined snacks and drinks structure would maximize shareholder value. Its snack business includes the Fritos, Lay's and Tostitos brands. The company said in a statement on Wednesday

that it remains "fully aligned" with that strategy. It said it's spent "a large amount of management time and significant financial resources analyzing Trian's proposals."

In the end, PepsiCo said that it continues to concentrate on delivering shareholder results and "not new, costly distractions that will harm shareholder interests." Shares of PepsiCo added 33 cents to \$77.43 in premarket trading about 30 minutes ahead of the market open. □

Wal-Mart offers weak outlook on sales shortfall

A. D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Much like its low-income shoppers, Wal-Mart can't seem to catch a break as the U.S. economy rebounds.

The world's largest retailer on Thursday posted a 21 percent drop in fourth quarter profit and gave a subdued forecast for the current year as it continues to be weighed down by a number of factors.

Winter has been marked by severe weather and slow spending over the holidays. Growing competition from dollar stores and grocers also has chipped away sales. And the latest headache? Wal-Mart said the Nov. 1 expiration of a temporary boost in food stamps is hurting its shoppers' ability to spend.



Tracey Anderson, 26, re-stocks X-Box sets on opening day of a new Wal-Mart on Georgia Avenue Northwest in Washington. Wal-Mart reported quarterly earnings on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

The issues Wal-Mart Stores Inc. faces are big challenges for Doug McMillon, who took over as CEO on Feb.

1. In a pre-recorded call on Thursday, McMillon promised Wal-Mart will sharpen its focus on everyday low

prices at U.S. stores and further push that strategy abroad.

Wal-Mart also said it will

speed up growth plans for its Neighborhood Markets and Wal-Mart Express smaller stores that cater to shoppers looking for more convenience with fresh produce, meat and household and beauty products. It now plans to open 270 to 300 small stores during the current fiscal year — double its initial forecast — adding to the 346 Neighborhood Markets and 20 Wal-Mart Express locations it already has. The expansion of smaller stores now outpaces the growth of its supercenters, which had long been the company's growth engine.

"Customers' shopping habits are changing more rapidly than ever before," McMillon said. "We must be more nimble and flexible." □

Gauge of US economy's health up 0.3%

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A measure of the U.S. economy's health posted a moderate gain in January, suggesting that the economy will continue to expand in the first half of this year.

The Conference Board reported Thursday that its index of leading indicators rose 0.3 percent last month following no change in December and a solid 0.9 percent increase in November. The index is designed to signal economic conditions over the next three to six months.

Conference Board economist Ken Goldstein said the January advance reflects an economy that is expanding moderately. But he said growth was held back over the past two months by severe winter weather in many parts of the country.

"If the economy is going to move on to a faster track in 2014 compared to last year, consumer demand and especially investment will need to pick up significantly from their current trends," Goldstein said.

The advance in January

was aided by fewer applications for unemployment benefits and strength in financial indicators. This strength offset weakness from a decrease in applications for building permits and fewer hours worked in manufacturing. □

Vacation Special
Aruba Beach Club

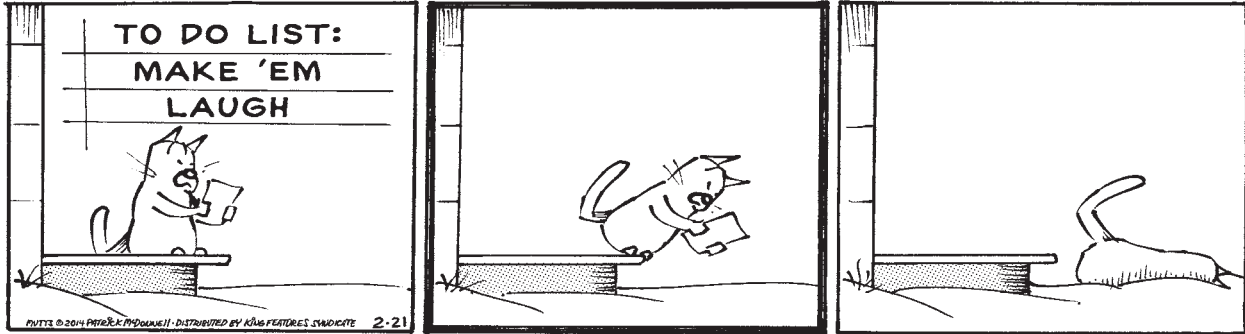
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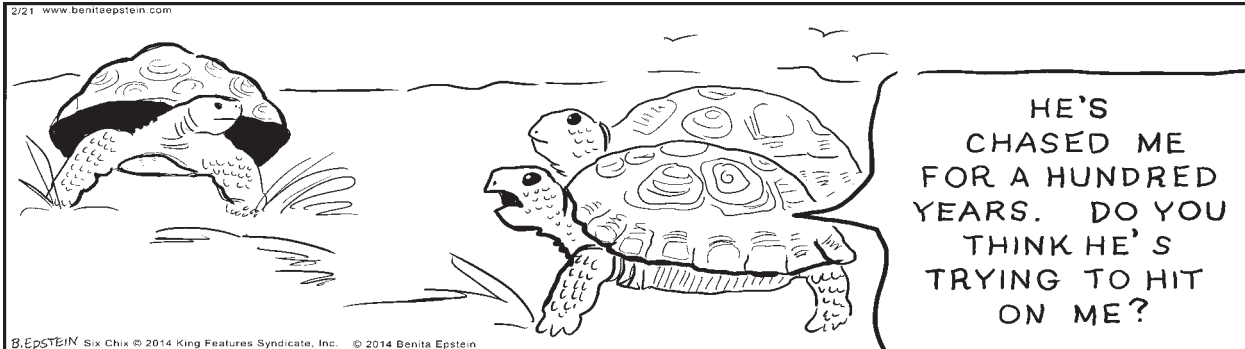
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Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		6	5		2	7		
				3				
		2				4		
6			1		4			7
	7			8			9	
3			7		9			6
		1				9		
				4				
		4	8		6	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

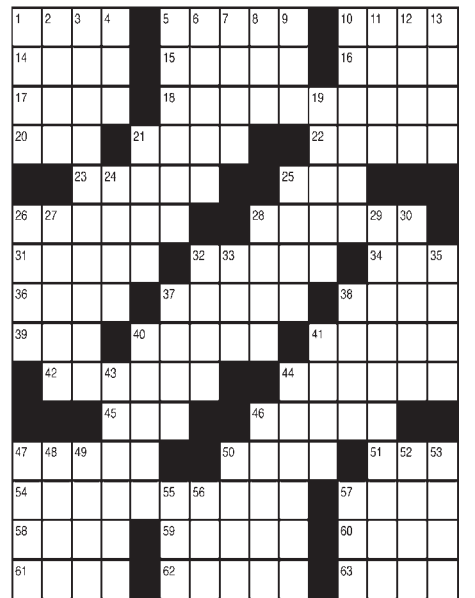
7	9	6	4	8	5	3	2	1
3	1	8	7	6	2	5	4	9
4	5	2	9	1	3	6	7	8
5	3	7	8	2	4	9	1	6
6	4	1	5	9	7	8	3	2
2	8	9	1	3	6	4	5	7
1	6	5	2	4	9	7	8	3
9	2	4	3	7	8	1	6	5
8	7	3	6	5	1	2	9	4

ACROSS

- Late actor Foxx
- Fine dishes
- Halt
- Go __; review
- Comfy wraparounds
- Wild feline
- __ pad; frog's perch
- Elementary school subject
- Samuel's teacher
- Landers and Jillian
- Sudden and sharp, as pain
- Drives in reverse
- Stir-fry pan
- Ample amount
- __ City, NV
- British nobles
- Cloth for military clothing
- 11/11 honoree
- Out of town
- Light brown
- In this place
- Up until now
- Migratory birds of Canada
- Insect stage
- Remember
- One who dies for his beliefs
- Everybody
- Cheeriness
- Foolish
- Hose twist
- Actor Lowe
- Mai tai cherry
- Garment of old Rome
- Dock
- External
- Twisted; askew
- Kill
- Looks searchingly
- Utilizes

DOWN

- Actor's part
- Wickedness
- Done on purpose
- 4 Parched
- In a bad mood
- Antlers
- Heron's cousin
- Bring home, after expenses
- Bit of soot
- Tiny spots
- Ballerina's skirt
- Leave out
- At a snail's __; very slowly
- Native New Zealander
- __ up; misbehaves
- Mayberry's sheriff
- Rouse from sleep
- Drama
- Bottom berth
- Actor Nicolas
- Topples
- Pushy; too bold
- __ over; faint
- __ and hers
- Rip
- Inventor of the telephone
- 38 Male red deer
- 40 Wild winds
- 41 On a __; just for fun
- 43 Pet bird
- 44 Those under the age of 18
- 46 Ore seeker
- 47 Little rascals
- 48 Tack
- 49 Region
- 50 Windy day toy
- 52 Meanie
- 53 Sea inlets
- 55 Police officer
- 56 Red or blue
- 57 Greek letter



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/21/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

ARTS	SPELL	LIFE
BOUT	ERNIE	IDLY
LOBO	VODKA	GLEE
EMERGED	ESCHEWS	
INN	CLEAT	
ADIEU	JOY	TEENS
BENS	SOD	DENIAL
ABC	ARBITER	DIE
CRUSTS	CON	HELP
KARAT	TIE	FIRST
VIRAL	SOB	
NOTICES	TAXABLE	
EARN	ASHES	COIL
THUG	MEALS	HANK
SUES	SLELY	IRKS

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2/21/14

Classifieds

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wk 9 sa-sa \$6.500
wk 10 su-su \$7.000
wk 11 su-su \$7.000
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201404

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201408

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201408

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201408

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201411

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Feb 23

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TODAY

ARUBA'S ENGLISH NEWS LEADER AND THE BEST PART OF YOUR DAY!

BONDIA

ROOSEN DEN DEL SAN

How to reach us!

Downtown

World had 4th warmest January as eastern U.S. froze

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer
Science Video

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The globe cozied up to the fourth warmest January on record this year, essentially leaving just the eastern half of the United States out in the cold.

And the northern and eastern United States can expect another blast of cold weather next week. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported Thursday that Earth was 1.17 degrees warmer in January than the 20th century average. Since records began in 1880, only 2002, 2003 and 2007 started off warmer than this year.

Almost all of Africa, South America and Australia and most of Asia and Europe were considerably warmer than normal. China and France had their second warmest Januaries. Land in the entire Southern Hemisphere was hottest for January on record.

While more than half of America shivered last month, it was one of the few populated spots on Earth cooler than normal. The opposite happened in 2012, when the United States had its warmest year ever and the globe was only the eleventh hottest on record.

Looking ahead, forecasters are seeing a large area of temperatures



Gibran Shannon lights a charcoal grill to cook a lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs in the Southeastern area of Atlanta on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014 after his family spent a night without electricity in below-freezing temperatures that resulted from downed power lines.
Associated Press

much below normal starting midweek in the upper Midwest and then plunging south. But it won't be quite as frigid as the deep freeze of early January that came from the polar vortex, said meteorologist

Dan Collins of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. The polar vortex is a high-altitude wind pattern that normally keeps Arctic air bottled up in northern Canada and around the North Pole. In January, a

big chunk broke off and allowed that ultra-chilly air to meander south. That's likely to happen again next week, Collins said. The national forecast for March through May predicts no drought relief in

the West and cooler than normal temperatures in the upper Midwest. Warmer temperatures in the Southwest in March are expected to spread across the entire South in April and May. □

Mexico, U.S., Canada to work on Monarch butterflies

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico, the United States and Canada have agreed to form a working group on the conservation of Monarch butterflies, whose numbers fell to record lows this year at their wintering

grounds in central Mexico. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto announced the decision Wednesday at the end of a one-day summit with U.S. President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Ste-

phen Harper. Experts say the butterflies' annual migration from the United States and Canada is in danger because of extreme weather, habitat loss due to deforestation and the displacement of milkweed, the Monarchs' main food source.

Pena Nieto did not announce any specific measures.

The World Wildlife Fund in Mexico called the announcement an important step, but said concrete measures are needed to protect the butterflies' habitat. □



In this Dec. 9, 2011, file photo a Monarch butterfly sits on a tree trunk at the Sierra Chincua Sanctuary in the mountains of Mexico's Michoacan state.
Associated Press

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50 Cent leaves major label, Eminem for independent

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After battling with his major label for years, 50 Cent has decided to become an independent artist.

The rapper announced Thursday that he's leaving his longtime record label, Universal Music Group's Interscope Records, and Eminem's imprint, Shady/Aftermath.

The Grammy winner and his G-Unit Records have signed a distribution agreement with Caroline, the independent label at Capital Music Group. Capitol is one of the many labels that are part of Universal Music Group.

50 Cent launched an ultra-successful, six-times platinum debut with "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" in 2003, when he burst on the music scene with Eminem as his mentor. His sophomore album, 2005's "The Massacre," was almost as successful, but other albums didn't match his previous efforts and he expressed his unhappiness with his label. 50 Cent had been planning to release a fifth album on the label, but it was set with multiple release dates and singles, and eventually didn't see a release.

His last album was 2009's



In this Nov. 18, 2012, file photo, rapper 50 Cent arrives at the 40th Anniversary American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"Before I Self Destruct," which also had several release dates.

"I have had great success to date with Shady/Aftermath/Interscope and I'd like to thank Eminem and Dr. Dre for giving me an incredible opportunity," 50 Cent said in a statement. "I've learned so much from them through the years. I am excited to enter this new era where I can carry out my creative vision."

50 Cent had a plethora of hits early in his career that dominated the pop, rap and R&B charts, from "P.I.M.P." to "Candy Shop" to the anthemic "In da Club," which introduced the young rapper aside Dr. Dre and Eminem.

"Both myself and Shady

Records are grateful to have had the chance to play a part in 50's career," Eminem said in a statement. "Shady simply would not be what it is without 50 Cent. I've developed a great friendship with 50 over the years, and that's not going to change. We know 50 will have success in his new situation, and we remain supporters of both him and G-Unit."

The rapper, born Curtis Jackson, has also been a success outside of music, from film roles to fashion to books.

50 Cent's new album, "Animal Ambition," will be released June 3. Caroline has recently distributed albums by Korn and rapper E-40. □



In this Sept. 22, 2013 file photo, Carrie Underwood performs "Yesterday" by The Beatles at the 65th Primetime Emmy Awards at Nokia Theatre, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Academy of Country Music will salute troops

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— The Academy of Country Music will pay tribute to members of the armed forces with its annual television special.

Merle Haggard, George Strait and Carrie Underwood are among the first performers to sign on to "ACM Presents: An All-Star Salute to the Troops." The two-hour special will air May 20 on CBS.

Each year, the academy tapes a special a different

theme on the day after its awards show, which will be held April 6 in Las Vegas. Past shows have focused on Strait and honored the women of country music.

Ticket sales for this year's show at the MGM Grand will be donated to the academy's charitable foundation ACM Lifting Lives. Other early performers announced include Lady Antebellum, The Band Perry and Florida Georgia Line. □

Modern Family star indecently assaulted in Sydney

SYDNEY (AP) — Australian police have charged a man with indecently assaulting a star of the hit television comedy "Modern Family," Sarah Hyland, in Sydney.

The cast of the ABC series arrived in Sydney this week to shoot an Australian episode. The 23-year-old was attending a social function for cast members at a Sydney hotel on Thursday night when she was allegedly groped on the chest by a man who had asked her to pose for a photograph, The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper reported on Fri-

day. The actress who plays big-eyed teenager Haley Dunphy immediately alerted private security guards, who called police to the scene.

New South Wales state police said in a statement on Friday that a 29-year-old man had been charged following the alleged indecent assault.

He was charged with assault with an act of indecency, a crime that carries a potential maximum of five years in prison. He was freed on bail to appear in a Sydney court on March 14. Police have not

revealed his name.

The actress was shaken by the incident, and left early from the event sponsored by Qantas Airways, the newspaper said.

"Sorry to all the fans outside the #qantas event that I didn't get to say hi to but I had to leave due to an inappropriate touch of a fan," she wrote on Twitter. □

Sarah Hyland who plays Haley Dunphy from the U.S. TV series Modern Family arrives on the red carpet during a social event in Sydney, Australia, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014.

Associated Press



Cuban writer Padura tests U.S. literary waters

CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Sitting in the courtyard of a picturesque Miami bookstore cafe, Cuban writer Leonardo Padura chuckles between drags on a cigarette. Nearly all his life, he explains, has taken place in one Havana neighborhood.

It is there, in Mantilla, where he was born, raised, married and wrote the detective novels that have won him international acclaim. He still lives in his childhood home and likes sitting on a small bench in front of a new candy store that opened across the street and listening to the chatter of customers.

His neighbors call him "the famous writer."

"But I am lucky," he says, "because they also still know me as my mother and father's son."

Padura has carved a space that few writers in Cuba after the revolution have managed to attain: that of a public intellectual, at once accepted by — and critical of — Cuban society.

Now, at the height of his literary career, he is on a tour in the United States, visiting Miami, New York and Chicago. His critically acclaimed "The Man Who Loved Dogs" has been translated into English and published in the U.S. by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Well-known in academic and Spanish-language literary circles, the hope is



Cuban author Leonardo Padura speaks during an interview in Coral Gables, Fla., Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014.

Associated Press

that his work will appeal to a wider U.S. market as well. "The Man Who Loved Dogs" has recently been translated into English and published in the U.S.

"I think American audiences are intrigued by his detective novels," said Ana Mario Dopico, a professor of comparative literature at New York University. "He brings a breath of fresh air to a very over-determined reading of Cuba which is very hyper-political, very Cold War."

The principal character of Padura's work is Mario Conde, a downtrodden detective solving crimes in the underbelly of post-Sovi-

et Union Cuban society. Through Conde's investigations, the contradictions and shortcomings of a revolution in decline are laid bare. Yet his novels are also never overtly political. Padura himself takes great pains to state that he himself does not identify with any political party, nor the state or the country's dissidents. He sees himself simply as a chronicler of modern Cuban life.

"If there is any positive effect my work can have, it's in the act of being independent," he says. "Of having a stance, a mindset, a space, that is free from political preferences."

Born in 1955, Padura is part of the first generation to grow up with no or little memory of life before Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution. He came of age when the Caribbean island still benefited from Soviet support and launched his literary career during the Special Period, the years after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

His four Mario Conde crime novels were all published in the 1990s, a time when a limited tolerance for criticism within the arts began to emerge. Padura acknowledges that the situation before then was dramatically different. Writers like Reinaldo Arenas who

condemned the Communist government were jailed, and their work was difficult or impossible to find on the island.

Today writers like Padura, Wendy Guerra or Pedro Juan Gutierrez can get away with casting a critical eye. Freedom is, however, still a tenuous concept.

"It's a country that is governed by the party, and that party is of a socialist bent where there are still expressions of individual freedom that are not understood because they are considered aggressions against the party, the state, the government, which also represent the nation," Padura says.

Part of the reason he has negotiated those boundaries successfully may lie in his choice of genre. The detective novel unveils hidden worlds, friends who betray, untrustworthy authorities, and is also a genre that allows a writer to "talk about politics without being political," Dopico said. But while Padura has been published without harassment in Cuba, he has not been promoted in the official media as often or as enthusiastically as other writers whose works are less scrutinizing of life in Cuba, Ted Henken, a professor at Baruch College said.

"Padura can publish a book like 'The Man Who Loved Dogs' but that book will not be reviewed in any of the newspapers or mentioned on the television or radio," Henken said. □



In this May 30, 2013 file photo, James Taylor performs at the Boston Strong Concert: An Evening of Support and Celebration at the TD Garden, in Boston.

Associated Press

James Taylor appears in anti-fracking TV ad

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — James Taylor still has Carolina in his mind these days.

The singer-songwriter is starring in a television ad for an environmental group urging North Carolinians to challenge efforts to allow natural gas exploration through hydraulic fracturing in the state where he

grew up.

The Natural Resources Defense Council said the ad began running Thursday. A group spokesman would not give a price on the ad buy but said the commercial would run for at least two weeks.

The General Assembly told a state regulatory panel

to create rules the industry must follow to participate in the exploration, better known as fracking. Lawmakers still must take further action to allow drilling permits.

Taylor grew up in Chapel Hill and now lives in Massachusetts. He wrote the 1970s hit "Carolina In My Mind" about his state. □

The Prodigal Sons



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

We take as our text today the parable of the prodigal sons. As I hope you know, the story is about a father with two sons. The younger son took his share of the inheritance early and blew it on prostitutes and riotous living. When the money was gone, he returned home.

His father ran out and embraced him. The delighted father offered the boy his finest robe and threw a feast in his honor. The older son, the responsible one, was appalled. He stood outside the feast, crying in effect, "Look! All these years I've been working hard and obeying you faithfully, and you never gave me special treatment such as this!"

The father responded, "You are always with me, and everything I have is yours." But he had to celebrate the younger one's return. The boy was lost and now is found.

Did the father do the right thing? Is the father the right model for authority today?

The father's critics say he was unjust. People who play by the rules should see the rewards. Those who abandon the community, live according to their own reckless desires should not get to come back and automatically reap the bounty of others' hard work. If you reward the younger brother, you signal that self-indulgence pays, while hard work gets slighted.

The father's example is especially pernicious now, the critics continue. Jesus preached it at the time of the Pharisees, in an overly rigid and rule-bound society. In those circumstances, a story of radical forgiveness was a useful antidote to the prevailing legalism.

But we don't live in that kind of society. We live in a society in which moral standards are already fuzzy, in which people are encouraged to do their own thing. We live in a society with advanced social decay - with teens dropping out of high school, financiers plundering companies and kids being raised without fathers. The father's example in the parable reinforces loose self-indulgence at a time when we need more rule-following, more social discipline and more accountability, not less.

It's a valid critique, but I'd defend the father's example, and, informed by a reading of Timo-

thy Keller's outstanding book "The Prodigal God," I'd even apply the father's wisdom to social policymaking today.

We live in a divided society in which many of us in the middle- and upper-middle classes are like the older brother, and many of the people who drop out of school, commit crimes and abandon their children are like the younger brother. In many cases, we have a governing class of elder brothers legislating programs on behalf of the younger brothers. The great danger in this situation is that we in the elder brother class will end up self-righteously lecturing the poor: "You need to be more like us: Graduate from school, practice a little sexual discipline, work harder."

But the father in this parable exposes the truth that people in the elder brother class are stained, too. The elder brother is self-righteous, smug, cold and shrewd. The elder brother wasn't really working to honor his father; he was working for material reward and out of a fear-based moralism. The father reminds us of the old truth that the line between good and evil doesn't run between people or classes; it runs straight through every human heart.

The father also understands that the younger brothers of the world will not be reformed and re-bound if they feel they are being lectured to by unpleasant people who consider themselves models of rectitude. Imagine if the older brother had gone out to greet the prodigal son instead of the father, giving him some patronizing lecture. Do we think the younger son would have reformed his life to become a productive member of the community? No. He would have gotten back up and found some bad-boy counterculture he could join to reassert his dignity.

The father teaches that rebinding and reordering society requires an aggressive assertion: You are accepted; you are accepted. It requires mutual confession and then a mutual turning toward some common project. Why does the father organize a feast? Because a feast is nominally about food, but, in Jewish life, it is really about membership. It reasserts your embedded role in the community project.

The father's lesson for us is that if you live in a society that is coming apart on class lines, the best remedies are oblique. They are projects that bring the elder and younger brothers together for some third goal: national service projects, infrastructure-building, strengthening a company or a congregation.

The father offers each boy a precious gift. The younger son gets to dedicate himself to work and self-discipline. The older son gets to surpass the cold calculus of utility and ambition, and experience the warming embrace of solidarity and companionship. □



Joyce Does It Her Way



JOE NOCERA
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I'd like to tell you a story about a Brazilian musician you've probably never heard of. Her name is Joyce Moreno; she is 66 and has been singing and composing professionally for 47 years, during which time she has made more than 30 recordings. I flipped for her music when I first heard her last spring at Birdland, in Midtown Manhattan, and I've been listening to her, more or less obsessively, ever since. But that's not the reason I want to tell you about her. A few months after I first heard her play, we struck up an email correspondence. When Joyce came to New York in September for an engagement, my wife and I had dinner with her and her husband, the Brazilian drummer Tutty Moreno. And during my recent trip to Rio de Janeiro, I interviewed her, figuring that I would write about her when I got back. Somewhat to my surprise, what has stuck with me from those encounters has less to do with her music, glorious though I think it is, and more to do with the way she has conducted her career. She has lessons to teach that go well beyond music.

Joyce's career began in controversy. When she was 19, she wrote a song that began, "I

was told that my man doesn't love me."

In the Brazil of that era, her blunt, first-person, female-centric lyric was considered by many to be vulgar - not the sort of thing a woman was supposed to sing about.

"It was strange," she told me - bewildering to be at the center of such a storm at such a young age. But she never backed down from the way she approached her songwriting. In a country that didn't exactly embrace feminism, she was always a staunch feminist, and that's reflected in some of her best lyrics.

As is true for every Brazilian of her generation, she also had to deal with the military dictatorship that ruled the country from 1964 to 1985. In December 1968, the dictatorship issued a decree that, among other things, instituted broad censorship of the arts. Some of the country's most important musicians, like Gilberto Gil, were imprisoned and then sent into exile.

Other musicians and artists had to submit their work to the censors. Joyce recalls that she was forbidden to use words like "pregnant" in her songs.

"I was censored because I had a feminine point of view," she says. By 1980, however, the worst of the censorship had ended, and Joyce recorded a song called "Feminina," which became, in many ways, her anthem. "Oh, Ma," it begins. "Please explain to me, teach me

Tell me, what is feminine?

It's not in the hair, the mojo or the look

It's being a female everywhere."

In the early 1980s, she had a handful of small hits, "Feminina" included. But, says Nelson Motta, a Brazilian writer and producer, "her music has never been very commercial from a

Brazilian standpoint," and, over time, she became someone who was more respected than listened to.

Several times during her career, she seemed on the cusp of breaking out. Once, early in her career, she recorded an album produced by Claus Ogerman, who had arranged songs for Antônio Carlos Jobim and Frank Sinatra. For reasons that have never been clear to her, the album was never released. "It was painful," she told me, "but I lived with it."

Years later, Verve signed her to a two-record contract. As is so often the case, however, the label and the musician had very different ideas about what the recordings should sound like. "They said they liked what I was doing," she told me, "but then they wanted me to do something completely different." Joyce found the experience miserable, and it reinforced her belief that she could be happy only by staying true to herself, no matter what effect that had on her career.

And so it has been. She is more popular in Japan than she is in Brazil. She cuts her own records, even though it means she often has to pay for it out of her pocket. "It is a way of preserving my independence as an artist," she said. "Joyce has never worried about being popular," Motta says. When I saw her give a concert in Rio de Janeiro in December, there were maybe 250 people in the hall - and the admission was free. I felt disappointed for her, but it didn't bother her at all. Afterward, she autographed copies of her new CD and posed for pictures. When I asked her about it, she said, "I'm fine with where my career is. I've had a very lucky life." Would that we could all so easily make our peace with what life throws us - the good, the bad and everything in between. □

Femen leader plans feminist outpost in America

ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — She quickly seduced French officialdom after arriving from Ukraine, winning political asylum within a year of her application. Her visage, framed in blond hair crowned with flowers, helped inspire France's latest postage stamp. Few French people knew back then that they were dealing with a radical soldier for the feminist cause,

a single Femen activist for simulating abortion in Paris' famed church, Eglise de la Madeleine. Femen has orchestrated a raft of bare-breasted protests with a range of targets: near the Vatican, in front of Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, near the Grand Mosque of Paris and in several churches outside France, including at Christmas Mass at Cologne Cathedral. There,

she said. "We're a bunch of angry women." Shevchenko has announced plans to expand Femen's footprint from nine countries mostly in Europe to the United States, most likely in New York or Washington, D.C. The group's Ukraine headquarters has been shut down. "We are this sort of detonator," she said. "We go where the problem is." That includes houses of worship, which she says

supporters held a protest in Paris recently against Femen. Femen, founded in 2008, sees itself as the cutting edge of feminism, "ringing the (alarm) bell" as it did in Ukraine, well before the nearly three months of deadly protests now against President Viktor Yanukovich's government. In December, Femen activists in France urinated on portraits of Yanukovich in front of the Ukraine Embassy.

Tunisia may reflect a failure to fully understand the "diversity that exists in Christianity and Islam," she said. Femen's most audacious activist was a Tunisian who spent more than two months behind bars last year after her arrest in May for allegedly scrawling the word Femen on a cemetery wall. Amina Sboui, who also posted topless photos of herself online, is also the best known Femen dropout; she renounced the group because of what she called its anti-Islam stance.

Femen has about 40 activists in France who take part in protests and 350 members who help out, Shevchenko said, adding that it has 250 activists in nine countries.

The large building north of Paris that became Femen headquarters two months ago — after the group's Paris digs mysteriously burned down — features a training room to keep activists fit and where 100 pushups every Saturday are de rigueur. The walls are covered with Femen slogans like "My Boobs, My Bombs," "My Body, My Gun," "We Are Soldiers Of Freedom."

Critics claim Femen thrives on media attention more than improving the lot of womankind. Yet one leading feminist network in France was careful not object to Femen tactics.

"We think our techniques are, perhaps, more effective," said Anne-Cecil Mailfert, spokeswoman for Dare Feminism. "But what is certain is they are the target of attacks by the right and extreme right Anti-feminists will do everything to make them look like a dangerous, crazy movement." Femen is mostly ignored in other European countries where protests are staged, including Spain, West Germany and Sweden. In a recent TV documentary series, Swedish feminist Belinda Olsson questioned whether the movement has a clear motive or was just a bunch of "exhibitionists showing their tits."



Ukrainian feminist group Femen leader Inna Shevchenko, answers questions from reporters during an interview with the Associated Press in a Paris suburb, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014.

(AP Photo/Remy de la Mauviniere)

in town to organize the ranks of women for a radical insurgency with bare breasts as weapons. The sweet start for 23-year-old Inna Shevchenko is souring. The defiant chief of the Ukraine-born Femen movement now risks up to five years in prison and a 75,000-euro (\$103,000) fine for bashing brand new bells at Notre Dame Cathedral a year ago — and allegedly damaging one. Dressed only in pantyhose, she and eight others were celebrating the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. The trial for the nine was postponed from Wednesday to July 9. A second trial begins March 14 for

a single topless woman with "I am God" painted on her chest briefly jumped onto the altar. Boldness is clearly in Shevchenko's blood. She fled Ukraine in 2012 after taking a buzz saw to a huge wood cross, risking prison. Today, she is nonchalant about that risk. "Of course, I was scared" after the Ukraine protest, she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But this is not that fear that will make you stop your activity. We are scared to not be able to continue our activity." "We are not a political party who wants to find fans. We are not a rock band,"

are responsible for patriarchal laws that subjugate women. The plan to add a U.S. branch coincides with a wave of criticism of Femen and questions about why Socialist President Francois Hollande officially approved a stamp representing "Marianne," the national symbol since the French Revolution, that resembles Shevchenko. One conservative lawmaker wants the stamp withdrawn. Another conservative wants the group declared a sect, which would make it illegal in France. Hundreds of people from the ultra-conservative Roman Catholic group Civitas to far-right

British sociologist and feminist scholar Kristin Aune sees Femen as part of an apparent resurgence of feminist movements, but suggested that Femen's protest tactics are out of synch with the West. "In a way, they have taken an old-fashioned feminist view," said Aune. "In the '60s and '70s, feminists said religion is terrible but later saw it as possibly liberating." In Aune's opinion, some Femen causes are more worthy than others, such as fighting sexual tourism as the group did in Ukraine. But Femen's heavy focus on religion, including Islam, in protest operations in Western Europe and in